

Bible Prophecy Update – February 20, 2022

Update Links

- Times of Israel, "Biden says Putin has 'made the decision' to invade Ukraine, will likely target Kyiv"
<https://www.timesofisrael.com/biden-says-putin-has-made-the-decision-to-invade-ukraine/>

- The Daily Wire, ...Biden says Putin "WILL invade in days"
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10527897/Ukraine-crisis-Pro-Moscow-rebels-start-evacuating-civilians.html>

- Prophecy Update, "Deal of the Century"
<https://www.jdfarag.org/bible-prophecy?sapurl=LytkNmtjL2xiL21pLytqejlwNTh5P2VtYmVkPXRydWU=>

- Prophecy Update, "Peace with Many"
<https://subsplash.com/+d6kc/lb/mi/+2866x8p?embed=true>

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Invasion of Israel – Evasion of the Church
J.D. Farag

Good morning and welcome to our first service. On Sunday mornings, we have two services, the first of which is our Bible Prophecy Update that we do weekly. And then Second Service is the sermon, verse-by-verse study through the Word of God.

We started a couple of weeks ago in the Book of James, and today we are in Chapter 1:9-11, and are going to, Lord willing, answer the question of why it is that prosperity can actually be more dangerous than poverty in the life of a Christian.

So that will be livestreamed 11:15 a.m. Hawaii time. We'd encourage you to join with us at that time. And for those that are watching by way of YouTube or Facebook, we would encourage you to now go directly to JDFarag.org for the uncensored, uninterrupted entirety of today's update.

So let's get to it. We got a lot to get to today. Of course, we have a lot to get to every week, but today, I want to talk with you about two Bible prophecies that point to just how close we really are to the rapture of the church.

And those two are: First, that of the allied invasion of Israel, and secondly, the compromised evasion of the church, both of which point to the swiftness with which prophecy is unfolding. I hope and pray that you'll be encouraged today because the whole point of doing these Prophecy Updates is to get Jesus to people and people to Jesus while we still have time.

I know I probably - I hope you don't tire of me using this analogy and illustration, but the titanic of this world is sinking, and I don't want to be numbered among those that are trying to rearrange, as they say, the deck furniture on this sinking ship. There's just no more time. We need to get as many people off of that to Jesus for salvation before the thing goes down.

Actually, I'll take it a step further and just say that before the ship goes down, we need to get people to Jesus before we go up. Yeah, that's it, yeah, you can sum it up that way. All right, well, let's start with the prophetic significance of Israel as it relates to the well-known prophecy in the book of Ezekiel Chapter 38.

I know I run the risk of an oversimplification concerning this prophecy, but I'm just going to summarize it this way. This prophecy in Ezekiel 38 is about an invasion of Israel by an alliance of nations with Russia, Iran, and Turkey at the helm.

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And we're even told in this prophecy what the purpose of this allied invasion is, which is to capture and control Israel's resources. Now, doubtless you've been apprised of the breaking news about what many believe to be an imminent invasion of Ukraine by Putin in Russia.

This is very important, and the reason this is so important in terms of Bible prophecy is because of the detail in Ezekiel's prophecy concerning God putting a hook in the jaw and turning them around, this alliance with Gog at the helm, and bringing this alliance against Israel for the invasion of Israel from the far north.

So now the question is: What is the hook?

Well, said hook is the aforementioned resources in Israel, chief of which is their natural gas. Yesterday, the Daily Mail reported on massive explosions which have been linked to a gas pipeline that were heard in the Russian separatist city of Luhansk in eastern Ukraine. It's important to understand that Ukraine enjoys and benefits from the numerous natural gas pipelines into and through their country.

Pictured here is a map showing Ukraine's pipelines, and one cannot help but notice the proximity of Russia to Ukraine, which was actually part of the former Soviet Union prior to 1991. And Putin has made it very clear in no uncertain terms that his sole goal is to restore the glory of the former Soviet Union.

Now, when you zoom out and see the bigger picture, I know this helps me a lot as a visual learner, but Ezekiel 38 comes into clearer focus. While a Russian invasion of Ukraine may comport strategically and more importantly prophetically with Ezekiel 38, it is not a direct fulfillment of Ezekiel 38.

However, it may very well lead up to the allied invasion of Israel, regardless of whether or not Russia invades Ukraine at this time. To the question of whether this prophecy is fulfilled prior to the rapture or after the rapture, I believe that specific detail in Ezekiel 38 seems to indicate the latter.

In other words, the rapture happens first and then sometime during the 7-year tribulation, Ezekiel 38 is fulfilled. By the way, there's a lot of detail in this prophecy in Ezekiel 38. One of the most intriguing to me; I'm going to kind of just parenthetically say this. We're going to actually talk a little bit more about this shortly.

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But one of the most intriguing details is found in verse 13 of Ezekiel 38 where we're told that the Gulf States, chiefly Saudi Arabia and those countries in that area will not be a part of this alliance. In fact, not only will they not be a part of this alliance, they will somehow at this time have a good foreign relationship with Israel.

Hmm. Things that make you go, hmm.

Because all of those nations today enjoy a very good relationship with Israel. And all they do in verse 13 is protest and question: Why are you invading Israel? Oh, are you invading Israel to plunder their resources?

Answer: Yes, that's exactly what we're doing, thank you very much.

So interesting detail because the detail provides us with - I hate to use this word, but for lack of a better one - clues as to what the geopolitical climate is going to be at the time that the prophecy's fulfilled.

And I would suggest that the geopolitical climate in the Middle East is exactly as the details in this prophecy say they will be. In other words, this happens after the rapture, which is before the 7-year tribulation and as such serves as a much-needed warning. I'm going to use that word "warning" of just how close we are.

When you see all of the players in place, at the ready, and you're looking at a prophecy that will find its ultimate fulfillment during the 7-year tribulation beginning to take place now, and the rapture happens before the 7-year tribulation, then how close are we to the rapture?

Very close.

Well, this brings me to what I'll refer to as the evasion of the church, which is a prophetic description about what happens to the church. What I'm speaking of is the Laodicean church, which is a prophetic picture of the lukewarm, compromised church in the last days that cannot do anything.

And the reason is because it's lukewarm, neither hot nor cold, which is why it becomes impotent under the banner of playing the middle, or if you prefer, playing both sides of the fence. I want to draw your attention to Revelation Chapter 3.

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I want to read verses 14- 20. This is the seventh letter to the seventh of seven churches, seven being the number of completion. And right out of the chute in verse 14, we already see something here, very unusual, that we don't see with the other six churches. And Jesus has John write to this church; this is about 95 A.D. it's believed.

John the Apostle has been banished to the island of Patmos, left there to die, this after church historians tell us after he was thrown into a cauldron of boiling oil and didn't die. I love it when God does that!

So what are we going to do with him?

Well, send him to Patmos.

And so here he is on the island of Patmos, about 50 miles or so approximately off the coast of modern-day Turkey. And he's told to write what we have in our Bibles as the Book of Revelation. And in Chapter 1, he writes that which he was an eye witness of: Jesus Christ crucified, buried, resurrected, and seated at the right hand of the Father.

And then in Chapters 2 and 3, he's to write that which is now, present, church history, the seven letters to the seven churches. and then from Chapter 4:1 on through to the end of the book in Chapter 22, he is to write that which comes hereafter, after these things, meta tauta in the Greek.

By the way meta; that's interesting. I'm not going to go there, so don't look at me like that. It transcends, its after, meta, and I'm not talking about Zuckerberg's new thing. This is - I'm talking about scripture. Of course, there's - anyway, I digress.

So he's to write that which is to take place, meta, after these things. And that's from Chapter 4:1 on. I say that to say this. Where are we right now? We are in - let me use this illustration. Hope you don't mind.

We are the last drop about to drop at the end of Revelation Chapter 3 right now, right here, okay? And it's about to drop, like I'm watching it right now. It could drop anytime. That's where we're at, this seventh church, a prophetic picture of the condition of the church, not only in the last days, but the last church in the last days.

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So what's John to write to this church? Well, verse 14, **“And to the angel of the church [listen] of the Laodiceans write.”**

Of the Laodiceans, really? Yeah. Well, you didn't say that to the church of Ephesus or Smyrna, or Pergamon or Thyatira, or Philadelphia or Sardis. He says, **“And to the angel of the church of Ephesus write.”**

But when he gets to the seventh church, he doesn't say, “To the angel of the church of Laodicea.” No, he says, **“To the angel of the church of the Laodiceans.”** Why? Because it's not - in fact, the name is the nature.

You know, what Laodiceans means? It's the combination of two English words: laity and dioceses. The laity rule. This is their church. Write this to the church of the laity who rule, that call the shots. This is the same church, as we're about to read, that Jesus isn't even in anymore.

Where is He?

Oh, He's on the outside knocking, asking to come back in and dine with them. He's not even in the church. They kicked Him out of the church. No need: We have no need.

Okay, well, I'm getting ahead of myself. So to this church, **“The angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.**

[This is to the church]

Because you say, [verse 17] ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’— and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—

[I don't want to go to that church!]

I counsel you [verse 18] to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten.”

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Think about that for a second. If Jesus didn't love them, He wouldn't bother with them. This is actually a love letter, as strong as it is. I love you so much. I have to chasten you. I have to rebuke you. **“Therefore be zealous and repent.”** You need to repent

“Behold, [And here's that famous verse, very well-known] I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.”

I'm not going to break the door down. You have to open the door. Anyone who hears My voice - and He ends the letter the same way He does with the other six, **“Let him who has an ear to hear, hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.”**

Couple of thoughts here that are going to be germane to our understanding of what I want to share with you today concerning the condition of the church today. Laodicea would have understood exactly what John was told to write to them, especially when it came to being lukewarm, and here's why.

They had so much money, but they had a water problem. So they built this very elaborate aqueduct, six miles in length as it's believed, so they could bring the water from Hierapolis down to Laodicea. And the water that they would bring from Hierapolis came from these natural hot springs, but by the time the water got to Laodicea, it was lukewarm.

And when he talks about this eye salve, Laodicea was an extremely wealthy place. It was the fashion center of the known world. It was the banking center of the known world, and they were also known for this breaking, cutting-edge medical technology with their eyes salve that they would put on the eyes.

And so Jesus hits them at every single turn and they would have got it, and they would have understood it. Why? Because He loves them and He wants them to see with those eyes because they're blind. He wants them to be clothed with white garments from Him. He wants their wealth to be wealth from Him because they see themselves this way, and God sees them this way.

And the key to me in this is that the church had gotten so - well, how do I say it? I'll just say it - so full of themselves. So full of themselves that there was no room for Jesus, which is why He's on the outside knocking to try to come back in.

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This church was a feckless, lukewarm church. And you'll forgive me for the bluntness with which I say this, but sadly, this last days, lukewarm Laodicean church, well, it's alive and well today. And one need look no further than to the unwillingness of the feckless church today to preach the word. Why?

Because they - it's controversial. It's unpopular. I don't want to offend anyone. Excuse me, but the gospel's offensive. The gospel by its very nature is offensive. God has the audacity to say that we're sinners.

Well, I'm not going back to that church. I don't want to hear that. I want to hear that I'm a good person. It's all good.

No, you're a sinner. You're a dirty, rotten, stinking sinner.

Does that offend you? Praise the Lord!

Hey, we don't want to, you know, we want to be a little more seeker-friendly.

Really?

Yeah, so when someone comes to the church, we want him to come back.

Oh, so how are you going to do that?

Well, first of all, the worship.

Oh, they wouldn't dare do the songs that our worship leader Kapono did today because that's too much Jesus in that. And then, by the way, when the pastor comes up to - I don't know what he's doing because he's not - oh, he might reference the Bible, but he's not teaching the Bible. It's an ornament.

How are we doing? You okay so far? I just I have to speak the truth here.

So here's what happens with that church. They become so much like the world to attract the world, and there's no difference between the church and the world, so when people come to that church that's like the world, what's the point?

Hang in there with me. It actually gets, I want to say it gets better, but it doesn't. It actually gets worse, so...

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Now this is -and we talked about this many times before, but this is a prophetic sign of the last days. Paul, writing to Timothy, says this will mark the last days: That they will not put up with a church that has a pastor that teaches sound doctrine.

Okay, what they're going to do instead is they're going to gather around themselves and flock to in great numbers the church that has the pastor that's going to tell them what they want to hear.

What do they want to hear?

Everything's going to be okay. We're all in this together. We're going to go back to a new normal. You're a good person, Let's just have a group hug. (Singing) Kumbaya.

Yeah, I want to hear that; my flesh wants to hear that.

And that is a prophecy of what will mark the church of the last days, and to me, it's an apt description of what we have in the Book of Revelation with the seventh and final church, this lukewarm church.

Now, Pastor, what do you mean by: They cannot do anything because they're playing the middle or playing both sides of the fence?

Well, let me try to explain that. This is the church that hey, we don't want to - we don't want to, you know, get too dogmatic here because this is too controversial. So we're going to stay away from that because we want them to come back. That's called being a man-pleaser.

In other words, you're crafting and tailoring your message, your worship, your church around what you think will be palatable for those that come to the church. What about this? The Proverbs say that the fear of man is a trap. It's the fear of man. It's being man-pleasing and man-fearing. And that's what the church has done.

So now we can accept LGBTQ, eh, homosexuality, you know, critical race theory, Black Lives Matter. I can keep going if you want, but I think you get the point, right?

Because see, what you've done now is you have created a dynamic where you're catering to the pleasure of man, and it's birthed out of a fear of man. And it's a trap. And it's evidenced by the absence of teaching sound doctrine.

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Forget about Bible prophecy, oh, how many have sought to answer the question of why it is that churches don't talk about the end times.

Oh, I'm not going to do that. It's going to scare people.

Well, listen, I'd rather scare you into heaven than flatter you into hell.

It's called the fear of the Lord. It's the beginning of wisdom. A trembling - oh, we're going to see this Thursday night.

By the way, Thursday night we finish the book of Isaiah. I can't wait. You should come. Chapter 66, where God declares to the prophet Isaiah: You know who I look upon? You know who I delight in? You know who I am moved by?

It's the one who is humble and broken and contrite and trembles at My Word. That's the one.

Oh, would to God that there was a fear of God and a trembling at His Word.

Well, they don't teach the Bible. They certainly don't teach through the Bible because if they did, they would have to teach Bible prophecy because well-nigh one third of the Bible is prophecy. So you're not getting away with it and you're not getting around it.

If you're teaching through the Bible book-by-book, guess what? You're going to be teaching Bible prophecy by default.

I feel so much better having said that, I just want you to know. Okay, well, we still have a problem because what about the churches that do, the churches that would dare to preach the Word and talk about the last days and dare to teach Bible prophecy? Ooh!

Well, they need to count the cost because there will be a cost. Because any pastor of a church that dares to do that and go against the popular opinion of the day, go against the world's narrative because again, now that that church looks so much like the world, and by the way, if they do talk about Jesus, which Jesus are they talking about?

If they by chance should have an invitation at the end to come to Jesus, which Jesus are the people coming to? So you've got a pastor, you've got a church that preaches the Word,

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that's counted the cost, and is viciously attacked, and dare I say even punished in many ways.

And by the way, again, to the question of: Why don't pastors teach Bible prophecy?

That's why.

To me, that's at the top of the list because as soon as you preach the Word and prophecy, which is one third of the Word, man, you're just going to get blasted from every angle. And I believe that's one of the main reasons why pastors don't do it.

Now, please know that I in no way wish to beat up on the church. Rather, I must sound the alarm about the church.

While it's very alarming to see the condition of the church today, it's also an indication of just how close we are to the rapture of the church any day. Because we have Bible prophecy that describes the condition of the church at the time of the end, and the condition of the church today is exactly as the Bible describes it will be at the time of the end.

I hope that's encouraging to you. It's encouraging to me.

If you'll kindly allow me to, I want to expound on this more. But in order to do that, we'll go ahead and end the YouTube and Facebook livestream at this time.

So what follows are among the most controversial prophecies in the Bible that today are being avoided and evaded by the church. And the first one - you see it there on the screen - is the obsession with dividing Jerusalem vis-a-vis the two-state solution, which is actually akin to Hitler's "Final Solution."

You have to understand that the Arabs do not want peace with Israel. They want the destruction of Israel. This is just a repackaged "Final Solution" to exterminate, eliminate all of the Jews.

And we have this prophecy in Zechariah Chapter 12, very specific actually concerning Jerusalem that at the time of the end, the whole world, all the nations on Earth will have this intoxicating obsession with Jerusalem to divide it into two.

Listen to what the prophecy is as recorded by Zechariah.

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Verse 1, Chapter 12, ***“The burden [or prophecy] 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, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem.***

And [verse 3] it shall happen in that day [today] that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone [boundary stone] for all peoples; all who would heave it away [give it away, divide it, cut it] will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.”

Okay, again, maybe it's an oversimplification, but this is a prophecy about how the whole world will be obsessed with Jerusalem, the city out of all of the cities out of all of the tribes in all of Israel that God chose to literally put His name on. It belongs to God.

You want to cut it up? He's going to cut you up. I know that's a very loose paraphrase, but that's what the prophecy is saying.

So this presupposes that in that day, which is today, that there will be this effort to take Jerusalem, which is - this is a problem, and it needs a solution. And this is a very big, heavy-duty problem, the boundary stones, the immovable stones, the burdensome stones that mark the boundaries of Jerusalem.

We need to move those boundaries so we can cut it up so that we can have Jews and so-called Palestinians living side-by-side in peace and security, 1 Thessalonians 5:3.

For those who are interested, we did a deep-dive into the Deal of the Century in our Prophecy Update on February 2, 2020. And in that update, there's a particular paragraph in this agreement that says, “End of claims, end of conflict.”

And here's the - again, the summary of it. It basically says that you end your claim to Jerusalem and that's how we end the conflicts surrounding Jerusalem. Excuse me? You mean the Jews have to end their claim to their Eternal City?

Ooh, have you read Zechariah Chapter 12?

So Pastor, are you saying that the Deal of the Century divides Jerusalem?

I am absolutely saying that. It is a fact and it's the truth.

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Well, subsequently, we addressed the prophetic significance of the Abraham Accords in the update on August 16th of 2020 titled, "Peace with Many."

Why do I bring that up today?

Because both are at the very least stage setting, as it were. And I'll take it a step further and say possibly even "curtain drawing," to use that metaphor, by virtue of the speed with which it's all moving, and it's moving so fast, so fast.

Everything that we're seeing, and when I say everything, that's not hyperbole, literally everything. Meaning there is not one thing that is happening in the world today that we were not told would happen at the time of the end in Bible prophecy.

Well, this brings me to the second one. We've been talking about this for really the better part of two years now. And it's that of the global deception of all the nations vis-a-vis another solution, by the way.

This is a pharmaceutical solution, which Bill Gates actually is on record as referring to this injection as the "Final Solution." And when he was queried, he kind of walked it back, but it was too late. We already know. We saw your TED talk, Bill, back in 2017. We know what you're all about. We also know what your dad was all about.

But two things I want you to note, and the first is that this is a global deception, all the nations on earth. And the second thing that I want to point out is that this deception has to do with a pharmaceutical.

And here's how I get there, Revelation 18:23, a prophecy describing the fall of Babylon; listen very carefully. **"The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore. For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived."**

Now this word "sorcery" in the original language of the Greek New Testament is "pharmakeia," where we get our English word for pharmacy, pharmaceutical. This pharmaceutical potion/solution is a global deception that is so deceptive that all the nations on the earth were deceived by it.

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I want to ask you a question. Are all the nations of the earth today deceived by this COVID vaccine, as it's called?

Okay, I'm going to very humbly and kindly and lovingly ask you to just hear me out. The common denominator with the Deal of the Century, Abraham Accords dividing up Jerusalem, Operation Warp Speed, the vaccine solution, very controversial, right?

The common denominator is that the author of both is one Donald J. Trump. Now, for those who take issue with me, let me again lovingly, humbly hasten to say your issue's not with me. That's not the issue; the issue is not whether or not you agree with me, that is not the issue.

The issue is: Does what I'm saying agree scripturally? That's the issue. Your issue's not with me. The onus is on you to search the scriptures for yourself like the Bereans.

I think I'd be grossly remiss if I didn't at least acknowledge the many who took me to task, to put it kindly, concerning my comments last week about Donald Trump. I just want to, again, I will humble myself, and I will just very lovingly say to you, to anyone, when you send such a hateful email or post something that vicious, do you know that you're going to have to give an account for every single word on that post and in that email?

I say that in love. And I guess this goes back to the question we tried to tackle last week is why - it's actually a twofold question. Again, just bear with me. This isn't my notes, but it's in my heart, okay?

Question number one: Why is it that Christians are so defensive when it comes to this man? I do not understand. Why is it, secondly, the second part of that: Why is it that if a pastor or a Christian, for that matter, dare say anything that would be perceived as critical of this man, why are they on the receiving end of the most vicious - listen, I - (sighing).

Well, you might take issue with me, but it's not me that's your issue. You have issues. I'm not one of them. Was that a better way of saying it? Your issue isn't with me. If you're going to react like that about this man? Oh, man.

Pastor, aren't you concerned - I got one email that said you lost 80% of your followers.

I'm like, I'm after followers? Don't follow me; follow Jesus.

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[Applause]

Pastor JD, with all due respect, you committed social media suicide.

(Chuckling) Okay. I hope this doesn't come off wrong, but I don't care. I don't care. Beware when all men speak well of you.

I'm unsubscribing!

Okay, praise the Lord, see you in heaven! Maybe, I don't know, but... Sorry. I'm just being truthful with you.

I've actually had more loving responses from those not professing to be Christians than I have from those who do profess to be Christians, I'm sad to say.

One last thing on this and then we'll kind of bring it in for a close here. I wanted to leave myself enough time, and with the Holy Spirit's help, I'm just, you know, from the heart.

The very fact that a Christian, a professing Christian would get this vitriolic and vicious in their defense of all of the good things that he supposedly did, which I question, that should tell you something shouldn't it, shouldn't it?

I know I said one last thing, but this is just one last thing. I wonder, and I would venture to say that when I say this, I am probably saying this to some who have also experienced this. This man right here has done more to split families and churches and Christians and people than any other man I've ever known.

And isn't it ironic that he's also now seeking to split Jerusalem?

Hmm.

Well, Pastor, he's not the president anymore; Biden is.

I'm fully aware of that. I do get out, you know?

Well, are you pro-Biden?

Come on, really?

Well, I voted for the lesser of two evils.

Oh, evil, you voted for evil?

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Yeah.

Well, that's interesting. Hmm.

Okay, last-last thing, and I mentioned this last week. And listen, I've already counted the cost. When you've lost your life, you've got nothing else to lose, right? So I've already lost my life in this world, so.... This has to be said because it's the truth.

Our hope is not in any politician or political party. And dare I say that if the same amount of effort, time, energy, resources were put into prayer and evangelism that is put into that, you know what? And I really mean is when I say it: We would not still be here because that last Gentile would be saved by now, and we'd be up there.

Because see, the presupposition is that if we get that man in office, all right, we get our country back!

Okay, wait. I love this country, and I don't mean this to be mean, but I love this country more than you because my parents immigrated legally to this country when I was nine months old, fleeing Islam in the Middle East. I love this country.

But I don't want this. I want that.

You know, okay, listen, you're already going to - one last thing, okay? This is the fifth, five's the number of grace. So show me some grace here.

Okay, the new campaign - he's already campaigning - is Save America, right, Trump, Save America? This on the heels of Make America Great Again. Okay, so if America is so great, then I really don't want to leave. Stay with me.

(Singing) Happy days are here again, and I'm not thinking about the Lord's return.

Right?

When things are good, great down here, I'm not thinking about the trumpets sounding and us being caught up to be with the Lord up there.

Isn't it true if we're honest that it's when things are not good that we're like, Oh Lord, come quickly!

Don't you think the Lord knows that?

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Hey, it's when things are not good that we want the Lord to come.

And this thing about Save America; I have a better idea. I'm going to put it right here on the front of the pulpit for next week. No, I'm not. Don't look at me like that.

Save souls. Save souls.

Okay, that was the last-last thing. I'm going to say it again. The onus is on you to search the scriptures for yourself because if and when you do, you'll see that all of this is not about to happen, it's already now beginning to happen.

And Jesus said, **“When you see these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your head, for your redemption draws nigh.”**

As I mentioned at the beginning, the purpose of these Prophecy Updates is to get Jesus to people and people that Jesus, to be an encouragement to you because of the soon return, the imminent return of Jesus Christ and the rapture of the church. It is so close. It has to be.

This is why we do the Updates, this is the purpose of the Updates, and this is why it is that we end with the gospel, the good news of salvation found in the person of Jesus Christ. And we also do what's known as the ABCs of Salvation, which is a simple, childlike explanation of salvation.

What's the gospel or good news?

The good news is, is that we're all sinners and need a savior, and Jesus is our savior who came and was crucified and buried and rose again on the third day. And He's coming back again soon and very soon for us one day, and I believe that day is any day.

What are the ABCs?

Well, just again a very simple explanation of salvation. The central part of it being just believe. Well, to believe there has to be this acknowledging that you are a sinner and that you need a savior; otherwise, no need.

Romans 3:10 says, **“There is no one righteous, not even one.”**

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

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We were all born sinners, which is why we must be born-again, Jesus said, to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

Romans 6:23 starts with the bad news first. It's the penalty for sin. **“The wages of sin is death.”** That's the bad news. We've all sinned, and we're all now sentenced to death. It's the death penalty because of that sin. So now we got this death penalty hanging over our head.

And then here comes the Savior, and with Him, the good news **“Because the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”**

So watch this: I go from death to life.

How?

Because He went to His death in my stead. He paid the penalty for my sin instead of me and for me.

That's good news!

And by the way, I need a Savior because I'm a sinner. And so are you too. We're all sinners. And we need the Savior, and every single sin has been paid for in full. And He purchased that gift of eternal life that He offers to us.

That's the A; here's the B, and again, the B is central because it's just believe, just believe.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever would believe,” not join a church, become a member, go through a class, jump through the hoops, get water baptized. I don't know why I went there, but maybe that was for somebody.

No, nothing you have to do. He already did it.

Yeah, but I better clean up my act.

No, what? That's like taking a bath before you take a shower. How absurd is that? No, He cleans you from the inside out. Just believe. Just believe. Believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Romans 10:9-10 says, **“If you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved.”**

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And then lastly, the C. It comes from the B, follows the B. I know that's deeply profound that C follows B. It's for call upon the name of the Lord, or as Romans 10:9-10 also says, **“If you confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord.”**

Can I just mention something real quick on this? Every tongue is going to confess that Jesus is Lord. However, listen very carefully: More better, do it now. If I can say it like that, like that.

Because see, when you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, now you're confessing unto salvation. But on that great and final day when every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, it's not for salvation, it's for damnation. But every tongue is going to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

“Confess with your mouth and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead you will be saved, for it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.”

And I love Romans 10:13, lastly; it seals the deal. **“All who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.”**

I implore you today if you're here in this service or watching online, and you've never called upon the name of the Lord, believing on Him, I don't know how else to say it, but it's the most important decision of your life for eternal life. And for the life of me, I cannot imagine why anyone would want to put that off.

Well, I need to think about it.

What's there to think about?

Well, I'll revisit it.

Well, how do you know for sure that tomorrow is going to be there for you to revisit it? Tomorrow is not guaranteed. Today is the day of salvation.

I want to share with you a “But God” testimony in closing. It comes from, oh, I sure hope - on these names, I'm not doing so well, maybe, but Hyacinth Downer who writes: Pastor JD, only eternity will be able to tell what a blessing you have been to the body of Christ. I told

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you thank you in a previous email for assisting my daughter with her religious exemption letter, which was approved by her company.

But prior to the approval, she was laid off from work October 31 of 2021 last year pending the approval of her application or her willingness to take the injection ASAP. “But God!” Like you, I love those two words!

Because the outcome of her religious exemption letter was pending, she was laid off with pay, but she had to sign a letter saying if the exemption letter was not approved, she would have to repay the salary she received as of October 31st back to the company.

We prayed fervently and thank God her religious exemption letter was approved.

[Listen to this]

The email stating that her exemption was approved also said that she will be informed of her work accommodation regulations before she is reinstated back to work.

[Now this is October of last year]

We continue to pray that the regulations would be favorable and reasonable. We were concerned about her having to be frequently tested because we learned of some of the dangers of testing.

This email stating the approval was received in mid-November, and since then she is still being paid her salary, but never heard back from the company until a week ago, when she was told that she will be transferred to another department within her company to give her the opportunity to work from home.

Pastor JD, isn't that just like “but God”?

Yes, it is! Oh, it gets better.

[Applause]

Actually, it gets worse before it gets better.

In the meantime, sadly, several of her vaccinated coworkers have been diagnosed with COVID 19 and have been home recuperating without being paid. To date, my daughter has not heard anything more about the arrangements that is being made for her to start working

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from home, so she is waiting patiently while rejoicing [and getting paid] in the good favor of God because she is still receiving her salary. Only God can do that, right?

[Applause]

Pastor JD, the loving kindness of God is beyond our human comprehension. We thank God for you and we pray that He will always bless you, your family, and your church family. We pray He will keep you all safe from every harm and every danger. Thank you kindly for your prayers for us. The grace of the Lord be with you - I really believe with you - that soon and very soon we will be caught up to meet our Savior and our Lord in the air, even so, come Lord Jesus, amen and amen.

Why don't you go ahead and stand up? Kaponi, come on up. I hope you're encouraged. I know I am. Because all of this points to only one thing and that's the sound of the trumpet and the return of our Jesus to take us out of this world. Come quickly, Lord Jesus, Maranatha!

Father in heaven, we're just in awe of You! Lord, You're always so faithful! You always provide. You're always so merciful. You're so long suffering, so patient, so kind, so gentle with us. Lord, thank You for that. We need, we need that.

But Lord, more importantly, we are so thankful to You for the gift of eternal life. And our salvation, which really began, our eternal life began when we were born-again. That's when it began.

So Lord, we with great anticipation, wait for You and for that trumpet to sound and the dead in Christ to rise first so that we who are alive and remain will be caught up, raptured up. Lord, we know it's very soon, sooner than any of us can probably imagine.

And Lord, I just pray that that has a twofold impact today. First, for those who don't know You, that today they would surrender to You and call upon You and believe in You and be saved.

And second, for those of us who do know You, some of whom are just barely hanging on, Lord, I pray that You would strengthen and encourage the hearts of the weary with that reminder, **“Do not be weary in well doing for if you faint not, you will reap.”**

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Lord, we are waiting for our redemption. Lord, please strengthen the faint and the weary.

And lastly, Lord, Maranatha, come quickly, Lord Jesus, in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.