

Urgent Prophecy Update Pastor JD

DAVID: Lord, we come before You and just lift up this time to You. We just give You all the glory, Lord, because You are awesome in our lives and You are awesome in this place, Lord. And we thank You for always blessing our church, Lord, and blessing our congregation. And may You have Your way today, Lord, as we — as Pastor JD gives Your word, Lord. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

PASTOR JD: Amen and amen. And good morning and welcome. You can be seated. So glad you're here today. Those of you online so glad you are as well. So here's the deal. This is First Service. As you know, we devote it to the teaching of Bible prophecy by way of our weekly Bible Prophecy Updates. However, after waking up at, actually it was 12:30 a.m. but about 1:00 a.m. when I got out of bed this morning, I sought the Lord, inquired of the Lord, and waited on the Lord. And it became very clear that I was to preempt and postpone the Update that was planned for today in order to address the breaking news that doubtless you've heard by now concerning the US, Israel, and Iran.

Now, because it takes me the better part of one week to prepare one Prophecy Update, I will not have any notes or any quotes. So we'll just close in prayer right now. (Chuckling) Why do I mention that? Because, and I know this is a novel idea, but I am going to fully rely on the Holy Spirit.

And by the way, I opened the Update that I had prepared for today. Whoa! But anyway. But God, I guess. Pastor Chuck Smith used to always --we called them Chuck-isms. He used to always say, "Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be broken."

[Laughter]

But at the end of the day, these are my notes. These are my notes, right? So I know what you're thinking. You're asking yourself this question. Okay, so you don't have this, you know, Wow. You work a whole — one week for one Update? No wonder they're so long. See, I know I knew. I know. So now you didn't have one week for today's Update. Does that mean it's going to be short? You know, when your parents, when you were a kid, would say to you "we'll see"? We'll see.

Now, before we start, I want to apprise you of three things, the first of which is that the Second Service sermon, which is our verse-by-verse study through the word of God,

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currently in the Gospel of *Mark*, is still on. So it'll still be livestreamed, for those of you online, at 11:15 a.m. That's Hawaii Standard Time, please note. And today's text will be *Mark, Chapter 1*. Get this. We're going to live on the edge and do more than just one verse and go all the way from *verses 2 through 8*.

No further, because we're going to see today, Second Service, three ways that beautifully describe what my new beginnings look like, whether I'm coming to Jesus or coming back to Jesus, who's the God of fresh starts and new beginnings and might I add endless chances. And also in so doing, I'm hoping by the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit to rightly divide the word of God in order to correct some of the false teachings that are rampant in today's last days church. I'm sorry to say these false teachings have in some way caused irreparable damage. But God. God is able. God is always faithful.

And so I hope you're able if you're able to join us Second Service for — this is perhaps amongst the most important verse-by-verse teachings in the word of God. And I think you'll see why I say that. I'm not trying to be sensational. I think you know me better than that.

Now, Tuesday — we haven't started the urgent Prophecy Update yet either. We'll get to it with urgency. But this Tuesday, March 3rd at 7:00 p.m., not 7:30 for those of you online; again, note Hawaii Standard Time, we're going to have our all-church prayer meeting, and the beginning will be livestreamed before opening it up for prayer.

Why? Because I want to share something the Lord has been ministering to me particularly during the five months that I was out of the pulpit caring for my wife before her home-going. And it's in the *Book of Acts, Chapter 12, verses 1 through 17*, which is a fascinating, I'll add, humorous account with detailed specificity about how we now, like them then, can be surprised when God answers our prayer. It's kind of like why are you so shocked? You asked. And I answered. Why are you so surprised? I wonder how many are going to be surprised when the trumpet sounds and hear the Christian's been praying, "Lord, come quickly." And then He answers it and He comes quickly. And we're astonished. Okay. You have to come Tuesday for the — that's all you're getting out of me for the Tuesday night prayer meeting. And it won't be long. Notice I didn't use those two words.

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Now this one is thirdly, lastly, most interestingly in its timing, prophetically. This Thursday — I would in a million years never have been able to time this one. As you know, we're going through the Bible, Old Testament book-by-book, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse. You know, last Thursday we finished *Zechariah, Chapter 11*. I know this is deeply profound, but what chapter comes after Zechariah 11? Duh. Thank you. Now, see?

Do you know what's in *Zechariah, Chapter 12*? You should. I mean, we probably talk about this prophecy and will likely, Lord permitting, talk about this prophecy today in this Urgent Prophecy Update for years. Because it is a very detailed prophecy about what's going to happen — notice these three words — in that day, which, by the way, I counted in *Zechariah, Chapter 12*, no less than seven “in that days.” Seven: the number of completion. Well, here's the thing. What was prophesied to happen in that day is now happening today. Do you believe that? Come on Thursday night, and we'll get you in a headlock until you do.

[Laughter]

All right. Oh, by the way, communion after. What a perfect way to celebrate and time to celebrate the communion table. Okay. Would you pray with me? Let's go to the throne. Father in heaven, I — I just want to posture myself and humble myself before You, before this, and just ask of You very simply to have anything that is from me — my words — have them just fall straight to the ground and return void. But I also want to simply ask that You will give me the words that You would have me to speak from Your word, knowing that it will accomplish its intended end and will never return void. So Lord, I am looking to You. I'm relying upon You, and I'm trusting in You to use this broken vessel to speak the truth in love, but with boldness about what's really going on right now. So Lord, would You do that? We're asking You for that. Speak, Lord. Your servants are listening. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

All right. I got — if you see me looking down, it's not a note. It's a habit. I wish there were notes there. There's no notes there. I have three big asks. First one — most important. I would just ask that you please, please, please separate, disconnect, un-tether the people in the country from the government of the country. Do you understand what I just said? What I just asked?

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Okay. I'll just expound just a little bit before I go to the other two asks. Please know that Jesus loves the Iranian in Iran, the Persian if you prefer, as much as He loves you and me. That's a soul that Jesus died for. That's a soul that God so loved that He sent His only begotten Son to die for and pay for in full, so that according to His will, which is that no one would perish but that everyone would come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. And oh, by the way, I think you might be a little bit surprised to find out what's really happening with our brothers and sisters in Iran as we speak.

Do you know about this? You don't — never hear about it. I think we're in for quite the surprise when that trumpet sounds. We're going to be surprised, as one so aptly quipped, in three ways. First, the surprise is going to be wow! I'm here! The second, huh, they're here? The third, where are they? Point? Man looks at the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart. God knows the heart. God searches the heart. God touches the heart. God woos the heart to Himself.

Let me flip this around, because this is why this is the most important ask of the three. Let me flip it around just real quick. Just indulge me, please. If you don't disconnect the people in the country from the government of the country, what you're doing is you're damaging them. They become the enemy, not the mission field.

Are we okay? I mean, real talk. Let's talk about my people. Let my people get saved. You know, God loves the Arab people. I'm so glad! God loves the Iranian people. God loves the Jewish people. Please, if you — if you indict the people of that country based on the geopolitical actions of the leaders of that country, you do err greatly, so much so that you will not see clearly as God wants you to see clearly.

There's a great move of God in Iran today, you know, underground. And they have to hide because if found out (Cutting off the head motion) Yeah, but I thought the Ayatollah Khamenei was taken out. You know, even so we're told, and this — I'm actually kind of dipping my toes into the second ask but listen. You've heard that saying, “don't believe everything you hear.” Don't believe everything you hear. That is certainly applicable when it comes to what you hear. Remember that Sunday school song? Be careful, little ears, what you hear. Be careful, little ears. You can join me if you want, because it would certainly drown out my voice. I think the ear gate is the bullseye for the enemy in these last days.

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And think about it. Are there not a lot of voices clamoring for our attention? Well, I heard this. But I heard that.

So first ask: Disconnect, disenfranchise, un-tether the people in that country from the government of that country. Please, I implore you. Ask number 2: How about this? I'm gonna be very careful and prayerful how I frame this. Please help me, Holy Spirit. I say this humbly, lovingly. But how about we — I'm including myself. Why don't we go straight to God's word instead of those teachers of God's word? Wait a minute. Pastor, aren't you a teacher of God's word? Exactly. You know what makes me cringe is when I hear somebody said, "Well, Pastor JD said..."

Oh, no, God, please, that's on them, not me, right? No. God's word says... I've been very candid and open, uncomfortably so, I know, but it's just who I am. I'm not going to be somebody that I'm not and somebody that God's not called me to be. I mean, what you see is what you get. If you don't see it, you don't get it. Build a bridge and get over it. Sorry. That was what my wife used to always tell me, but I'm just real.

I mean, I'm just going to speak the truth. I'm not going to sugarcoat anything. I'm not going to water down anything. I'm not going to make it a little bit more user friendly or seeker sensitive because I'm going to have to give an account one day before God. And according to James, I will be held to a stricter account than you will. I'll be in a different line than you will. Would you at least wave at me on your way by and say, "Pastor JD! Love you!" And not, "I've never seen this guy before in my life. I don't know who you're talking about." Completely disown me.

Because that line is going to take a little bit longer because we're going to have to give an account as teachers, which is our profound privilege to be, of the word of God. Did I shun the teaching of the whole counsel of God? Did I shun my mandate — I think I probably could have chosen a better word, but for lack of a better one — —my biblical mandate — that sanctifies it, maybe, better — to warn you as a watchman on the wall. "Here's what's coming!" Because if I don't, *Ezekiel 33* makes it very clear that I will have your blood on my hands.

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Acts, Chapter 20, Luke writes of Paul, who said, "I won't have the blood of anyone on my hands." Why? Because I did not shun from teaching you the whole counsel of God. What does "The whole counsel of God" mean? That means the whole truth, nothing but the truth so help me God, from Genesis all the way through to Revelation even if it takes 21 years, I'm not going to skip over the hard passages. You know the ones I'm talking about.

And boy, there's some — I'm going to use this word again — I know the '80s is still calling to get it back, but they can't have it back because I'm still using — gnarly. Gnarly passages in Scripture where if I wasn't teaching expositionally, book-by-book, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse, I'm skipping that part in Leviticus. The Levitical laws. And then the Lord's like, "What are you doing? You can't do that."

And then He's always so gentle and lo-n-n-n-n-g suffering. You know what long-suffering means? It means to suffer long. Some of us He suffers longer with than others. But in His grace, His patience, His love, His mercy, His long-suffering, He is ever so gentle to show me Himself in that passage that I want to skip in Leviticus. And it's so graphic. Yeah, but it's so Jesus because the crucifixion was graphic. Oh, now I see why we even have that in our Bible. Thank you, Lord, for the profound privilege that it is mine to teach this. Because all of this points to You, Jesus.

So back to my second ask, and I've been, again, very candid about this in the past. I'm not faulting anyone or rebuking anyone, but please do not call me a prophecy expert. I can — I can wear prophecy teacher, but not prophecy expert. And I'll explain why. If I'm a teacher of God's word, and one third of the Bible, God's word is prophecy, then by default, doesn't that also make me a prophecy teacher?

Did you make that connection? I'm a teacher/pastor. It's a dual gifting in the New Testament, keyword, gifting. This is not a skill set. It's not in my wheelhouse. It's in God's wheelhouse. And He looked down at this pathetic guy on the windward side of Oahu and said, man, that guy needs all the help he can get. So get down there, and the helper of the Holy Spirit will help him. I thank God for that.

So let me see if I can maybe clarify just a little bit. If you're a teacher of the word of God, and you're teaching the whole counsel of God, then wouldn't it stand to reason that you

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would be a prophecy teacher as well if one third of the word of God is Bible prophecy? Oh, unless you just skip those parts because they're so controversial, which, by the way, I had planned to talk about today.

You should see what I had prepared for today. Apparently, God wasn't as impressed as I was with what I had prepared. But think about just that word "controversy" for a second, and we'll get we'll get to this. Just hang in there with me. Wasn't Jesus controversial? So much so that they crucified Him? How about the prophets in the Old Testament that we've been studying for how many years now? How controversial were they?

They were so controversial that they were threatened. Their lives were threatened, and in most cases, their lives were taken. How about the apostles? Controversial. Can I just ask you this question from the heart to the heart? Isn't the Gospel of Jesus Christ in and of itself offensive and controversial?

So if you're a teacher of the word of God, and you just kind of want to maybe just sorta kinda not teach on such controversial topics in the Bible and just pick and choose the ones that are smooth, like in Isaiah when they told the Prophet Isaiah, stop doing your Prophecy Updates. He didn't do Updates, but I'm just trying to bring it into a modern understanding. Speak to us only smooth things. Translated: only prophesy about things that our ears are itching to hear. Timothy, Paul's epistles to Timothy? The last days church of today.

So again, the second ask, and we'll move on to the third, and then we'll — and this will really, I think, set the stage, for lack of a better way of saying it, for what's really going on with this attack on Iran by the U.S. and Israel that's got some people scratching their heads, and rightfully so, because it doesn't comport with what they thought or been taught for so many years.

Wait. I thought it was the other way around. I thought Iran was going to join this alliance in *Ezekiel 38* and attack Israel, and God was going to intervene because nobody else would. And then at the end of that prophecy, yet future, not too distant future actually, which we'll talk about shortly, God is going to defeat them decisively, miraculously, supernaturally, so that they will know that He is the Lord God.

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Because there's no other explanation. This is inexplicable. You've got these major, big, huge, gigantic, colossal countries with their military might coming up against little, it'sy-bitsy Israel and they're defeated. Who defeated them? Not the IDF. Not the USA. Only G-O-D, the God of Israel. I get chicken skin. We'll talk more about that in a moment.

But this third ask is, and again, I'm just going to plead with you, and I speak of myself as I do. Can we, all of us together, agree to revisit these prophecies in the pages of holy writ through a fresh lens, as if it were the first time we were actually reading and learning about it? What do you mean, Pastor? You know how it is when you become so familiar. I think there's a saying that familiarity breeds contempt. There is some truth to that. There is merit to that when you read passages that you've read a gillion times, and you just kind of get numb to what God may want to reveal fresh and anew to you, to me. God's word is alive. It's active. It activates.

And it's sharper, not just as sharp as a double-edged sword. No, it's sharper than any double-edged sword. So sharp is the word of God that it can surgically cut in and separate between soul and spirit. Like a surgeon, bone and marrow. You know, we say we search the Scriptures.

But the truth is the Scriptures search us. Let them. Can we agree to that? I mean, how many times the aforementioned *Zechariah 12* prophecy concerning the dividing of Jerusalem, the world's obsession, intoxicating obsession with the dividing of those heavy, burdensome boundary stones of Jerusalem. How many times have you read it? I've taught it. You've heard it. We've known it. And then we just become numb to it. Are you with me?

I'll tell you; when my wife was — her condition was deteriorating during that five-month absence from the pulpit. And I'm just caring for, and we're spend every moment together that we possibly can knowing that it's just a matter of time before she goes home to be with the Lord. And in our times together, we would laugh and pray and cry and go down memory lane and have our time in the Word together. And...

And we would be in a place in God's word that was very familiar territory, but it just jumped out of the pages of God's word at that time for such a time as that. It was almost like God —

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just while we were sleeping, if we're sleeping, if we could actually sleep — He would just sneak in and insert our names into that particular passage.

So we're reading, and we're going, oh! Have you ever done that? Put your name there. See how far you get. See how convicted you get. You could do that, you know. Because this is God's word to you and me. What is God's word? He's giving you His word. He can't go back on His word. His promise. He's giving you His word. I'm giving you My word, and I'm telling you what's going to happen before it happens, so when it happens, you will believe. And His word is true and amen.

I mean, how many atheists in their quest to disprove the infallibility of God's word, ended up coming to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ in the process? Praise the Lord for that. That's the power of God's word, the power of the Gospel to save. And we're ashamed? That presupposes we know the word of God. And I don't know; I just have to be very frank when I say this. I don't know how any Christian, born-again Christian at this time in human history, with everything that's taking place, I just don't know how it is that you're able to survive, let alone thrive, without a working knowledge of the word of God.

What's a working knowledge? In other words, the word of God works, and you have the knowledge to make it work in your life. You know where to go. You have the knowledge. Hey, that works for this. You're looking at a guy who two months ago to the day, today, watched the love of his life, his wife of 37 years leave this life and enter into eternal life in the presence of the Lord.

Now I ask you not for pity — I'll covet prayer — never pity — but I ask you how is it that a guy like me can get back up here and do this? Why would he want to? Because I know this is real. I know this works. And I know it's alive. And I know my wife is alive because God's word is alive. And it has over 3000 promises within it to me, as a born-again Christian. So I'm going to grieve, which is inward, mourn is outward, but I'm going to grieve. But when I grieve, it's not like someone who doesn't have the hope or the knowledge of the word of God and the God of the word.

This is my lifeline. I don't know how — I don't know — I probably shouldn't have asked that question because maybe I'm supposed to ask that for somebody here today. The word of

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God is just — it's collecting dust. Oh, you've got the app on your device. I'm sorry. Excuse me. My bad. When was the last time you opened it up? Well, I tried to open it up the other day, but it needs to be updated with my IOS because I haven't opened it up in like, years.

I honestly — and I say this with all humility and love as one who has tasted of the Lord and not only seen but known that He is always only good, no matter how bad it is, it can never change how good God always is. Were it not for the word of God, and again, these are — I've taught through the Bible, I memorized portions of the Bible. I read them. I've read the Bible cover to cover how many times, and I've — I'll read the Psalms and the Proverbs in their entirety in one sitting, sometimes two or three times a week. The Proverbs for wisdom, the Psalms for comfort. And as I'm doing that, I'm thinking, man, do people do this?

Do people know this is available to them? Because when your wife is dying or your daughter is dying or a loved one is dying, who are you going to turn to? Where are you going to go? Are you going to turn to the bottle of pills or alcohol, or are you going to turn to the Lord and His word? “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”

Now, this is a good way to dovetail into what I want to address today concerning this breaking news. I'm so glad it happened. Well, that's kind of morbid. How many innocent lives were lost? I don't know. But God knows He knows even how many hairs were on their head before they died.

Why are you so glad that this happened, Pastor JD? Because it's forcing everyone, in particular, these so-called prophecy teachers to kind of go back to the drawing board of God's prophetic word and actually read it, reread it. Because what you're going to find, because God's word is alive and active and sharper than any double-edged sword, what you're going to find is something, Ho! I've read this a gillion times! I didn't see that before. What happened? Oh, God gave you eyes to see.

Here's how it works. It's the Spirit of God through the word of God, ministering to and speaking to the people of God. And then — and when you don't — when you go to the Word, don't bring your bias with you. You can check that at the front door. In fact, we're

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going to start doing that at our front doors. We're going to have bias check-ins. You can leave your biases here. We'll have a room. Like a coat check-in, except we don't have coats. No?

Okay. Let me just kind of take that one step further because we do this — I do this. I'm just as guilty as the next guy. I confess. I'm just as guilty as the next guy when it comes to this. I go to the Word, but I bring with me in my going to the Word, my preconceived notions, my bias, my previous understanding. And what did I just do? I've done the exact opposite of what I'm supposed to do because now I'm reading into the word of God what's not in the word of God. How did it get there? You brought it with you. Well, I've always heard it taught that blah, blah, blah, blah, blah.

I don't mean to be disrespectful. I certainly don't want to come off as sounding angry. I'm not angry. I'm heartbroken actually. But here's the answer to the question of why I'm so glad this happened. Because finally something that went completely against this bias, normalcy bias, preconceived notion happened. The US and Israel did what? Wait a minute! I thought that we were trying to have peace. Were you here last week? Were you online watching last week?

Daniel 8:25. This is — this just busts wide open any bias, any preconceived notion. Somehow, somewhere along the line we, and again, I — be a Berean. Don't ever just take even what I say as the truth. You search the Scriptures for yourself, and you find in the Scriptures, and you'll know where in the Scriptures it says that. See, my Bible doesn't say that it's going to be the way others are saying it's going to be, because doesn't God have the final word in His word? Am I right?

So *Daniel 8:25* is explicitly clear. Peace is on the front window to draw you in. It's the window dressing. It's the — if you got a better illustration, please let me know. Just... It's just the — it's the — it's the facade. There we go. It's a facade. It's a cover up to what the true, evil, demonic agenda is. What is the true, evil, demonic agenda? We have it right here. God doesn't want us to be ignorant about Bible prophecy. So when we hear breaking news like we did last night, we're not going, "Huh? What?"

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I have to confess this because... Right? Yeah, I have to. You know what my response was? It wasn't, "What?" It was like, "Cool." Except I'm not going to be able to sleep now because I have to redo everything. But... Why was your response, "cool"? Because this goes against everything that everyone has been saying. And quite bluntly, you'll forgive me. It is not true. What is true? The word of truth. We're so quick to hear what their take is on it.

I hope you don't do this with me. Please don't do this with me. Can wait to hear what Pastor JD has to say about this. How about — better — can't wait to hear what God has to say about this through Pastor JD. Is that better? Let's go right to the source. And by the way, aren't we supposed to anyway? Test the spirits. So I got this guy over here telling me that this is *Jeremiah 49*.

Okay. Let's go to *Jeremiah 49*. Okay. I can't quite get... But if he said so. He's the expert, right? So I guess I'll just take his word for it. Oh, no, no. Okay. Here's an example. In fact, when I had such a wonderful time with my pastor and his wonderful wife, Jamie, as I introduced her. Oh, we had such a great time together and just traveling down memory lane together. But I was just reminded of this — I don't know what to call it. I don't want to call it story — account — of how it is that you just kind of parrot what somebody else says. And then it's not what the word of God says. And then you got to walk it back.

Okay, Pastor, what's going on then, and why are you so just gleeful and joyful about this happening? Because it's teaching the prophecy teacher a lesson. Be very careful when you start promoting this or them or that, and that becomes the central focus of your teaching. Why? Because the Holy Spirit is going to say to you, I'm sorry. My only purpose is to point to the person of Jesus Christ and promote the name above all names. And if you're going to rebrand, or you're selling your merch — nothing wrong with that. But when it becomes all about that — I better leave that one there.

The Holy Spirit keeps me on a very short chain, basically a choke chain. And I'm reminded continually that if I ever veer from the — off to the right or to the left instead of this is the way walk ye in it, this is good between me and the Holy Spirit — if I don't keep Jesus Christ at the center of everything, my ministry, my family, especially now, and I go off in this direction and I start doing that, the Holy Spirit says, I'm out of here because that's not what I'm here to do.

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As soon as you stop exalting the name above all names, the name of Jesus Christ, the only name given among men whereby we must be saved, you are tying the hands of the Holy Spirit and the power of the Holy Spirit. The psalmist writes, "Promotion comes neither from the east nor the west, nor the north, nor the south, but from the Lord only." And you're promoting your latest book, your latest this, your latest that, this conference...

You know what? I'm going to — why not? Just bring it on. Bring it. I'm like Paul now, *Acts 20*. Nothing moves me. It's kinda like, pffft! That's the best you got? Wow. Hit me. You know, dead men don't flinch when you've died to self, picked up your cross followed Him. I think the last thing we need right now is another prophecy conference. There. I said it. You can stone me to death after. Well, can you wait till after Second Service? Because I think people want the...

I think the last thing we need is another book. I've got bookshelves. I can't fit any more books on them. And by the way, just kindly allow me to say when do you have time to read that book? Forget writing it. I've had people ask me, JD, when are you going to write a book I'm looking at them like, ha! Are you kidding me? Me write a book? I don't even have time to read a book, and when I do have time to read a book, guess what book I'm going to read? The Book of books.

So the US and Israel launched a preemptive strike under the banner of regime change. And it's reported that the Ayatollah Khomeini has been killed. What does that mean? Well, if you've been listening to all of these prophecy experts, you're probably so twisted into a prophecy pretzel, you have no clue. So can I just be simple? I was taught by Pastor Chuck to simply teach the Bible simply.

And I learned Bible prophecy from Pastor Chuck and my pastor, who was on staff with Pastor Chuck at Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa back in the day, as we say. So I'm just going to make it simple. I'm going to point you to one prophecy; well, okay, two because *Zechariah 12*. Thursday night. Spoiler alert. Just so you know *Ezekiel 38* and *Zechariah 12*. Yeah, but what about...? What about it? What about *Isaiah 17*? What about it? What about *Jeremiah 49*? What about it? What's the other one? Oh, what about *Psalms 83*? What about it? It's a prayer, not a prophecy, by the way.

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So basically what you're saying is you've got it right and everybody else got it wrong. I did not say that. And don't — please, I beg of you. Do not put words in my mouth or twist my words. All I'm trying to say is, is that God is not playing a heavenly chess game with us when it comes to Bible prophecy.

And Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, would say as much. I don't want you to be ignorant about Bible prophecy. Well, I mean, which is why the Bible is so full of Bible prophecy. I don't know how you could teach the Bible without teaching Bible prophecy if a third of it is Bible prophecy unless you're conveniently skipping over those parts.

But *Ezekiel 38*. Let's talk about *Ezekiel 38*. I'm going to give you some homework. You're going to be tested on this. It will be on the exam. I want you to read the entirety of — not 39. I know it's kind of coupled together, but just take *Ezekiel 38*, and I want you to pray before you read it. Yeah, but I've read it a gillion times before. Read it a gillion and one times then. And ask the Lord to give you spiritual eyes and ears to see and hear what the Spirit is saying to you today.

So here's the deal. Regime change or not, US/Israeli-led preemptive strike or not, Iran is in *Ezekiel 38*, starting off the list by their ancient names, which wasn't changed from Persia to Iran until, I think, 1935. I might be mistaken. I'm going to blame grief brain fog if I am because that's a real thing. Believe me.

And then in 1979, when the Shah of Iran was overthrown and the Ayatollah — it became the Islamic Republic of Iran. By the way, the Shah of Iran's son, oh, he's all over the place. It doesn't matter who's there. We're told in the Word, if you know the Word, that God directs the leaders of countries like He can direct the stream of water down the stream. He exalts one and He humbles the other. He is the one that allows them to be put in that position. How about that?

Because He knows the end from the beginning. And that particular regime or person or administration — you fill in the blanks — that is going to ultimately serve My purpose prophetically in the end. And I can take you through Old and New Testament scripture and show you example after example of how God has taken pagan leaders and used them for His glory and His purpose in the end.

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So I don't care who the Shah is or who the Ayatollah is. All I know is that God's word says Iran is still around. In fact, they're going to be at the forefront of this alliance of nations in *Ezekiel 38*. I want you to read it all the way through to the end, because the very last verse in that chapter of *Ezekiel 38* is the mic drop verse, I like to call it.

I love it when God does this. He says it a couple of times, I think, in the chapter, but He says, I'm going to do this such a fashion that there's going to be no question mark about who it was that did this. In other words, I'm going to do what I'm going to do in such a way so that you know there's no way that there was anyone other than Me who could have done that. So that you — and we're seeing this replete throughout our study of the Old Testament — so that you will know that I — I am. I am the Lord your God. They're not the Lord your God. I am. The great I am. The Lord your God. And now you know. And there's no question mark. Because there's no other explanation. It's inexplicable absent it being the Lord my God.

All right. *Zechariah 12*, and then we'll — we are going to bring it in for a close, but... See? Good no notes, maybe, huh? It's been said that it's not the strength — it's not the length of the prayer. It's the strength of the prayer. That does not apply to Bible Prophecy Updates or sermons. Did you? That didn't? That just went... That's fine.

[Laughter]

What about all those prophecies concerning America being a player in the end times? America's conspicuous absence from Bible prophecy. What about that? You better go back to the drawing board, bucko. By the way, I checked. That's not a bad word to say, "bucko." Buddy. That better? Buddy. Friend. Is that friendlier? Friend. Where's the drawing board? Right here. Go back to the Word and ask the Lord to give you fresh insight into what I would argue are the most powerful prophecies in the Bible playing out right before our very eyes. And we're witnessing it right now.

And the problem is, is that there's either this misunderstanding of Bible prophecy, no understanding of Bible prophecy, or dare I say a deception in understanding of Bible prophecy. Don't you think Satan wants to? I mean, wouldn't Bible prophecy be like the

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bullseye for the enemy, especially at times like this? I mean, after all, he's the author of confusion. And so a lot of Christians are going, I'm confused.

Well, let me un-confuse-a-ma-cate you. Was that too much? God is not the author of confusion. The enemy is. So if you're confused, it's not God, and it's not the word of God. And if you want to be un-confused, you need to read and heed the word of God, especially now because this is it. This is it. I've been telling that for how many years now? This is it. This is — this is the end. This is how it ends.

Well, that's kind of a bold proclamation, Pastor, isn't it? Well, I'm only speaking and teaching and preaching what I'm reading in God's word about the end. And I'm looking at this and I'm going, wow! Whoa! Oh, wait, that — that — that could lead to this. My wife used to call them God winks. I did that. Wink. I love those God winks.

I'm going to go one step further before we go through the ABCs of salvation, because that's the bottom line. And I say it every week, and I hope you never tire of me saying it every week. But if there was ever a time-driven urgency to get Jesus to people and people to Jesus, that time is right now. Yesterday, as they say. There's no more time.

I'm going to just say lastly that I'm thankful for what happened and is happening because it's going to, I believe, humble the exalted, who have thought more highly of themselves than they ought and bring them back in an alignment with God's word of truth prophetically, no bias, no preconceived notions. Well, I've been taught this for 20 — that's the way we've always done things around these parts. Oh, your mind is set. It's called a mindset. Like when your alarm clock is set. You're setting the clock. Well, you're setting your mind. It's already set in concrete. And that's where the battleground is, you know; it's in the mind.

So here's the challenge that's going to be on the final exam. Read *Ezekiel 38*. Read *Zechariah 12*. Come on Thursday if you're able. Watch online if you're able. And let us together revisit these specific prophecies concerning Jerusalem. Peace: that's what Jerusalem means. Yarul Shalom = Hebrew. Yarul Sharem = Arabic. City of Peace. It's the antithesis of that. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. It's the — that's the hottest spot in the world. Not New York, not Paris, not Kaneohe either. Jerusalem. Hmm.

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I want to challenge you to start with a blank slate — I think that's how you say it. Erase the chalkboard. Don't bring your notes from (Blowing) blow the dust off them from 20 years ago. Come in fresh and ask God to put fresh fire on the altar of your time in His word. And He'll do it. And I, on the authority of God's word, promise you He will do it. And so much so you'll be like, okay, that's enough for today. Wow! (Mind blown) That explains everything.

So when you listen to — and I'd be very careful, too, about who you listen to, and when you search the Scriptures, allowing the Scriptures to search you, the word of God will be met not with a hard heart, but a supple heart to receive the seed of God's word and germinate and sprout and bear fruit unto righteousness.

Because again, God is waiting on standby. He wants us to know. He's just waiting. Man, when is JD gonna ask Me? When is JD going to come to Me about this? Ask Me about this? Well, He doesn't.... I think He's kind of getting tired of me asking about all of this stuff because that's what I do. I just ask Him. You have not because you ask not. Lord, this isn't adding up. It's not making sense. It's not fitting in with everything that everyone's trying to make it fit in with.

So Lord, what's happening here? Oh, I'm so glad you asked, JD. I'll tell you what's happening here. This is the precursor for *Ezekiel 38*. This is the precursor for *Zechariah 12*. And I'm just giving you two. Yeah, but, Lord, everything's blowing up. I know, right? If everything's blowing up, revving up, that means we're going up, baby. One last thing. Did I say "one last thing" yet? I haven't said one last thing. Don't look at your watches. I'm almost done.

My first time in the pulpit was on a Thursday night, and it was a topical teaching out of *Ezekiel 24*, titled, My Wife Died. But I'm Not Asking God "Why." I'm Asking God "What." Because in *Ezekiel 24*, Ezekiel's wife dies. And I'm still getting a lot of answers to my "what" questions.

I want to share with you one last one that I think will encourage you, I hope will encourage you. Before my wife went home to be with the Lord, we would have conversations like, honey, I can't believe you know, you keep beating me. My wife kept beating me. She was very competitive. You're going to beat me to glory. I'm so excited for you.

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And she would respond with, well, I'm so excited for you too. And I'm like, what do you mean? Well, after I go, your teachings are going to be so powerful. I'm like, thank you, I think, because... because this is what husbands hear, wives, so you know. I heard your teachings haven't been powerful at all up to this point. And they won't be until I go home to be with the Lord, and then they will be. Okay. I know. That was — but...

But here's the what the Lord just settled me with. You're not too far behind, JD. You're not too far behind. Yeah, yeah, I know, I know. I teach Bible. I know. I teach the pre-Tribulation... No, no, stop, stop. Listen for a change. I gave you two ears. One mouth. Why do you think? Listen twice as much as you speak. I'm getting so convicted right now. No, I want you to listen to Me. I'm telling you — I'm promising you you're going to be reunited. Not in marriage, but you're going to see her again because you're not too far behind. I mean, like, like not really that far behind at all. That's how close we are.

And that settled me. There's a temporary relocation and separation until that grand and glorious reunion. I believe with all my heart that I'm not going to have to wait very long and neither are you, for those of you that have lost loved ones. So take heart and be of good cheer. Our redemption draws ever so near, nearer than any of us can possibly even imagine. With this? Yeah. Yeah, baby. Is it okay if I talk like that? I know it's not very pastoral, but I just have to tell you I talk to the Lord like that. He's okay with it. So how are you going to answer that? I'm just like, yeah, baby! Lord, You're so good! I love You, Lord! Oh, man, I love it when You do that!

Okay. let's close. Some of you are saying, praise the Lord. I mean, I thought you were going to keep going until the Rapture. I can if you want. But why do I — week in, week out, say the same thing every time? Here's the bottom line. Now's the time. We're out of time. There's no more time. Two reasons.

Number 1 is to equip you so that you're not ill-prepared or, God forbid, ashamed to share the Gospel with somebody that God may want to bring into your path. And number 2, it's for those of you — I won't look at anyone. You might be here. You might be watching online. You've never fully trusted in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you cannot answer with a certainty that you're born again. And Jesus said unless you're born again, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

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So the twofold reason and purpose for doing this week in and week out is to equip you that are saved and to reach those who are lost. That's why. Because it's only the Gospel of Jesus Christ, of which I am not ashamed. It's the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which is good news, the good news of salvation and eternal life that has been paid for in full by Jesus Christ. And that's why I will always every week do as long as God gives me breath and the privilege to go through the ABCs of salvation. It's so childlike simple. It's not a magic formula. It's a tool to equip you.

The A, which is — this is the — if you can get over this obstacle — if you can't, don't waste your time. Shake the sand off your slippahs — flip flops on the mainland — and move on. Don't waste your time. If someone is unwilling to acknowledge or admit that they're a sinner, why would they be interested in the Savior? That's the number one obstacle. And usually it sounds something like this. “Well, I'm a good person.” What are you going to say? No, you're not. You're evil, wicked. Your heart, Jeremiah says, is deceitfully wicked.

No, you're not going to respond that way. You can respond this way. Well, you may be a good person or have a good heart, but you'll never be good enough. Why? Because *Romans 3:10* says, **“There is no one [Good or] righteous, not even one.”** So... You're not good or good enough or righteous enough. *Romans 3:23* tells us why. It's because **“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”** Okay.

Now, if this is true, and it absolutely is, then there must be a penalty for our sin. And they're most certainly is. Wait for it. It's not good. It's very bad. It's the death penalty. **“For the wages of sin is death.”** This is the bad news that some need to come to in order to get to the good news. Because you see, the badder the bad news is the gooder the good news will be.

And this is the bad news that can be overcome as the obstacle with the good news that *Romans 6:23* says, **“Is the gift of God, which is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”** You want your wages? We saw this Thursday night. Death. You want this gift? Eternal life. Your choice. Your choice.

Okay. So now I've overcome the obstacle of acknowledging that I'm a sinner in need of the Savior. What happens next? Well, you put your trust in the Savior for the forgiveness of

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your sins. You believe in your heart. And this is central and essential. In fact, it could even be said that it's simpler than ABC. It's as simple as B, believe.

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

James 2:19 says, **“Even the demons believe and tremble.”** I'm not calling you a demon. I'm just saying that is what the word of God says.

So what does that mean? Well, that means that's not what believe means. Right? So if that's what believe doesn't mean, then what is it that believe does mean? I'm so glad you asked. By the way, I'm still trying to simplify this. I went through this; I revised it, and I shortened it. That should make you so happy right there, that word “shortened.” What does it mean to believe? To believe means that you change your mind.

I'm gonna talk about this Second Service a little bit. It's the Greek word “metanoia” which is translated in English “repentance.” It's the changing of one's mind and way of thinking and changing one's direction and doing a one-eighty, turning to Jesus, persuaded about Jesus, trusting in Jesus, relying upon Jesus, believing that Jesus replaced my self-righteousness with the perfect righteousness of Jesus, and the only possible way is by Jesus. How many times did I get Jesus in there? Not enough.

Okay. So you've got them over the A obstacle, and there's a genuine, godly sorrow that leads to a sincere and genuine repentance, where they change their mind. Now God's going to change their heart from the inside out. And when He does that, that's the C. It's a confessing. You're calling upon the name of the Lord. See, once the A obstacle has been overcome, leading to the B, which again is essential and central, the result will be the C, and that's evidential.

What do you mean? Well, Jesus said in both *Matthew 12:34* and *Luke 6:45*, **“Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.”** You want to know what's in somebody's heart? Listen to what's coming out of their mouth. If I got Jesus in my heart, that's all that's coming out of my mouth. Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus. Because the abundance of my heart is Jesus. So the abundance that my mouth is going to speak of is Jesus. *Romans 10:9* says, **“If**

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you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

And lastly, I love this verse. I love this verse. I love this verse. Did I tell you I love this verse?

Thank you. I guess I did. *Romans 10:13*. Why do I love it so much? Because it's so

definitive. It's not ambiguous. **"All who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved."**

Boom. That's the Gospel. The good news. You're a sinner. You need the Savior who died on the cross, paying in full, purchasing you. You're not your own but purchased with a price.

How much did it cost Him? Everything. His life to pay for your gift of eternal life. And you don't want to receive that?

What's the catch? There is no catch. No, there's no such thing as a free lunch, you know.

Well, the gift of God is just that. It comes at no cost to us. But the cost was to Him for us.

I'm going to close in prayer and have David come up and thank you for your patience. Don't

look at your watches yet. You did right when I said that, didn't you? I could tell you looked

at your devices to see what time it is. That's all right. God's a forgiving God.

I'm going to — I'm just going to make one plea. And my plea is this. If you came to Christ

but are distant from Christ, you need to come back to Christ. If you've never come to a

saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, please, what in the world are you waiting for? Today is the day of salvation.

Father, I pray, please, please. For anyone who may be in Iran, Iraq, Qatar, Kuwait, the

Persian Gulf, Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, my birthplace, Syria, especially Israel, and maybe

even more especially the United States of America. For anyone who doesn't know You that

today they would come to You, call upon You, and trust in You to be saved. And we ask this

in Jesus' name, Amen.