

## **Bible Prophecy Update – April 14, 2024**

### **Links**

- One For Israel article, Israel Saved From Massive Iranian Attack

<https://www.oneforisrael.org/bible-based-teaching-from-israel/israel-saved-from-massive-iranian-attack>

**Prophecy Update**  
**When Bible Prophecy Hits Too Close To Home**  
**Pastor JD Farag**

KAPONO: Would you join me in a word of prayer? Father, There's nobody that was, without sin yesterday, Lord. And so this morning, we wake up, and Your mercies are new and fresh every morning. Would You be with us in this time, Lord? We thank You so much that we have the opportunity to gather together in praise and worship, Lord.

Bless this time. Would You speak to us, Lord, in all those areas that may be hard for us to hear or maybe that we're holding on to? Lord, I pray that You would touch us. So speak to us in Your word, Lord. We thank You so much for this time together. Would You bless Pastor JD as he stands up here faithfully with courage, preaching Your word, Lord, in Jesus' name, Amen.

PASTOR JD: Amen and amen. And good morning and welcome. And you can be seated. So glad you're here today. Those of you online, we're so glad that you're joining with us. This is our Prophecy Update, First Service.

Second Service is the sermon that'll be live streamed at — I don't even know what time it is — 11:15, right? Kapono, help me out. Why'd you leave so quick? 11:15 a.m. I should probably know that by now. Yes, 11:15 a.m. Hawaii time. And that will be when the worship starts. And then the teaching will commence about 11:45-ish.

And this is our verse-by-verse study through God's word. We're currently — very exciting — going through the *Book of Revelation* on Sunday mornings as we are the *Book of Daniel* on Thursday night.

So today we're going to continue our verse-by-verse study through the *Book of Revelation*. And in so doing, we're going to look at how John's vision of who Jesus is has powerful implications for all of us and to all of us. So that'll, again, be Second Service 11:15 Hawaii time.

Also, for those of you that are online watching by way of YouTube or Facebook, we'd encourage you to go directly to the website [JDFarag.org](http://JDFarag.org), and there you will find the uncensored and uninterrupted entirety of today's Update, as only the first part is streamed on those platforms.

Before we jump in, I think I'd be grossly remiss were I not to, at the very least, give you an update on the Iranian attack against Israel last night.

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I got up early this morning to apprise myself of what happened, and what is even now happening, and what could very well and very soon happen, namely, the ultimate fulfillment of the well-known prophecy in *Ezekiel 38* about an allied invasion of Israel from the north with Iran, Russia, Turkey, et al at the helm.

And they will invade Israel. And Iran is listed as one of the main nations that will do so. And so now the question is, is this that? And I will do my best to address that.

But first, for the benefit of those who are unaware of what's happening, I'll draw your attention to this One For Israel report titled, '*Israel Saved from Massive Iranian Attack*.' I'll share with you a couple of quotes.

“For the first time in history, Iran launched a massive direct attack on Israel. Over 300 Iranian cruise missiles, ballistic missiles, and drones were launched at Israel overnight. It took hours for the projectiles to make the long journey over, so the whole nation had the heads up to get our bomb shelters ready and bunker down with everything we might need.

We were told the drones would take eight hours to make their way to Israel, but cruise missiles can reach us much faster, in two hours. But the far more dangerous ballistic missiles can arrive in just 12 minutes. We praise God, keeper of Israel, who neither slumbers nor sleeps, that not one Israeli was killed.”

Praise the Lord!

[ Applause ]

I love it when God does that!

Still quoting, “When we consider how serious the threat was, it's extraordinary to see how the IDF dealt with the situation. We are very grateful for our armed forces and also the countries who helped us.

Some of our natural allies, such as the US and the UK, came to Israel's aid. But to the surprise of many, both Jordan and [*Who knew — God knew*] Saudi Arabia [*That's actually verse 13 of Ezekiel 38*] also helped to take down a large number of missiles as they were on their way to Israel. Airspace was even made available [*Get this*] over Iraq to help the defensive measures.”

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Wow! Okay. Let's talk about *Ezekiel 38* just real quick. Towards the end of this report, it would suggest that this is not yet, keyword, highlighted, underscored, bold, italics, and if you want, put an emoji, not yet the fulfillment of this prophecy, and I'll explain how I get there.

But let me hasten to say that while it is not yet the fulfillment, it could most certainly be the beginning of the fulfillment of this prophecy by virtue of the conspicuous absence of any support from any nations, as there now still seems to be, which is why it's not yet.

But when *Ezekiel 38* is fulfilled, and we have talked about this prophecy for years, and we have been on the cusp of the fulfillment of this prophecy in recent years. When it's fulfilled, it will not be any friendly nations that defend Israel but only the God of Israel that defends Israel.

And I want to read to you two specific verses from this very well-known prophecy in *Ezekiel 38*, starting with verse 16. **“You... [Speaking to Gog] [this ruler, this chief, this head] You will come up against My people [That was your first mistake] My people Israel like a cloud, to cover the land. It will be in the latter days that I will bring you against My land, so that [Listen] the nations may know Me, when I am hallowed in you, O Gog, before their eyes.”**

I love this! You'll know it was Me, not you, not them, Me. Ha! Emphasis added.

Verses 22 and 23, the last two verses of *Ezekiel 38*. It gets better. I want you to notice the “I wills.” And when we were going through Ezekiel, which we recently completed, this is replete throughout this very prophetic book.

This is God speaking through the prophet Ezekiel, verse 22. **“And I will bring him to judgment with pestilence and bloodshed. I will rain down on him, on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.”**  
*[You got to get the growl in that one]*

Oh, by the way, right before that, He's just got done, through the prophet Ezekiel, describing an earthquake the likes of which has never been seen before, nor will ever be seen again. So that precedes this. And then comes, I mean, the flooding rain, the great hailstones, the fire, the brimstone. That'll preach!

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The last verse, *verse 23*. **“Thus [Here it is again] I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I am the Lord.”**

Is that chicken skin? When it's all said and done, and all the dust settles, no pun intended, from all of this, and it's believed, and I think the argument can be made, and we've talked about this over the years, that this particular prophecy about this invasion from front to finish, this alliance of nations will be dealt such a decisive and swift and devastating defeat, so much so that it's believed it will take place within the span of about 24 hours.

What's the point? The point is: God is going to do what God is going to do, so that there's no question mark that it was God who did it. Wow, that IDF!

No.

Oh, the US?

Nope.

Oh, Saudi Arabia, was...?

Nope.

The UK and what about Iraq? They opened up...?

Nope.

How in the world did Israel, little itsy-bitsy Israel, survive this attack from...? Have you seen a map lately of these nations? Russia! (Spreading arms to show great size)

[ Laughter ]

Again, effects added. We haven't even got started yet.

Iran. (Spreading arms to show great size) (Echoing, “Iran, Iran”)

Turkey. (Spreading arms to show great size)

Israel. (Holding fingers close to show small size)

In fact, you have to expand, magnify, you know, the little magnifying glass where you enlarge it, and it gets all grainy. You have to do that just so you can find Israel on there. In fact, some maps, Israel is so small they can't even fit the word Israel in it.

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So they — no, seriously — they put the word “Israel” in the Mediterranean Sea with an arrow. It's that little sliver, right — can you — right, right there — here, well, blow it up a little bit bigger — right there. Okay. 200% that.

Oh, there it is. Well... (Gasping) No way!

Way!

How?

Oh! So glad you asked. God did it as only God can. He came to the defense of Israel, His people, against the enemies that had come to invade His land. That's God's land that He gave to Israel. And this is an Arab telling you that! How about that?

That's God's land. He owns the title deed to that real estate, and the registered owners is Israel. But God owns the land. Okay, well, I could probably end the Prophecy Update right there, but I won't.

That was actually a quick Prophecy Update, but I'm going to turn a corner with a not-so-quick prophecy teaching that's a Prophecy Update. In fact, this is probably as good of a time as any just to say I'm kind of going to, if you'll indulge me, reminisce and wax nostalgic and travel down memory lane.

18 years ago, I started these Prophecy Updates. You know what they started out as? Just quick 10-minute Updates. Ha-ha! 10 minutes? Yeah, right before the teaching, and then we would go into the expositional teaching. And we would do that for the two services on Sunday morning.

And it was just a quick Update. Hey, I just want to update you on kind of what's happening and, you know, geopolitically and how it connects to the, you know, scriptures and Bible prophecy. And it was a quick 10-minute Update.

That was 18 years ago. And well, the rest is history, as they say. So now they are Prophecy Updates, but so too are they — and this is important — prophecy teachings. And I hope you'll make that distinction and delineation.

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### **When Bible Prophecy Hits Too Close To Home**

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Now why? Because today's more of a prophecy teaching. Because I sensed from the Lord that we really need to talk about this. What do we need to talk about? We need to talk about what it is that we can do when Bible prophecy hits too close to home.

What do you mean? I mean specifically as it relates to Bible prophecy causing division within a marriage, or a family, or even within the church as a whole, even more specifically when it comes to those in our lives who, at best, don't share our excitement or, at worst, excoriate us for our excitement.

Here's what I'm hoping to accomplish today. I want to in some way provide encouragement and hope to those who find themselves so alone in longing for our blessed hope of the pre-tribulation rapture when the trumpet sounds, and the dead in Christ rise first, all of our loved ones, and then we who are alive and remain are caught up, raptured up to meet the Lord in the air. I want to encourage you.

I'm also hoping to rightly divide God's word and provide sound doctrine for those that are on the receiving end of being hurt, mocked, ridiculed, even alienated from loved ones, in and even because of these end times we're in.

So what we'll do is start with scriptures that speak to this very real and might I add very raw reality within the Christian home personally and the Christian church broadly. And I want to start with *Matthew Chapter 12*. If you would join with me there beginning in *verse 46*.

By way of a preface to some of the passages that I want to teach today, Jesus spoke some pretty hard things, you know. You know that? The strength with which He spoke in some cases was just stunning and astonishing, and such is the case with this account.

We're told, *verse 46*, *Matthew 12*, **“While He [Speaking of Jesus] was still talking to the multitudes, behold, His mother and brothers stood outside, seeking to speak with Him. Then one said to Him, “Look, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak with You.” But Jesus answered and said to the one who told Him, “Who is My mother and who are My brothers?”**

Hey, if I'm mom, I'm like, “Come here, boy. Who's your mother? I'm gonna tell you who your mama is! ”

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[ Laughter ]

No, I mean, this would have been just astonishing. **“Who is My mother and who are My brothers?”** I would have not wanted to be the guy that was tasked with telling Him, “Excuse me. Sorry, sorry to interrupt You, but Your mom and your brothers need to speak with You, like, right now. I don't know what it's about, but, you know...”

And then He says to him, we're told, Who are my — **“Who is My mother and who are My brothers?”** At that point, if I'm that guy, I'm like, “Never mind. It's all good; I'll just... I go back to mom and the brothers and I say, “He's not available right now.”

[ Laughter ]

“Don't ever ask me to do something like that again.”

Now *verse 49*, after He says this to this poor guy, **“He stretched out His hand [Picture this in your mind's eye] He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, “Here are My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.”**

Wow! Okay. As I was inquiring of the Lord concerning this particular passage, I was kind of wondering, inquiring of the Lord about — wait a minute, this is, as far as I know, the only time that we have any record in the Gospels where Jesus was interrupted like this when He was teaching the multitudes.

So there had to be a reason that His mother and brothers would seek to speak with Him, interrupt Him in the midst of this teaching of the multitudes.

What is that reason? What would rise to the level of His mother and brothers, who had doubtless heard him teach numerous times, but why would they specifically at this time interrupt Him, send somebody to Him seeking to speak with Him?

Answer. Wait for it. Because they wanted to rein Him in, so He would tone it down and soften it up. Why? Because there were numerous reports about Him being so controversial. That's why.



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Oh, now that makes sense. I like how one commentator said it. "Considering the general context of opposition to Jesus, it may well be that the family of Jesus wanted to appeal to Him to not be so controversial in His ministry."

Charles Spurgeon, of this so aptly said, "The members of His family had come to take Him because they thought Him beside Himself."

That's an Old English way of saying "He's off the rails." You can use whatever metaphor you want. If that's not good enough, "He's lost it." He's lost His mind. He's beside Himself. This is urgent. This is serious. Mom, Bro's, let's go! We got to get Him, and He's causing too much of a controversy.

"No doubt the Pharisees had so represented His ministry to His relatives that they thought they had better restrain Him."

Does that make sense? That really fits, doesn't it? That really explains it. I mean, any other reason is inexplicable as to why they would do this, why this would rise to the level of them going to this length.

Imagine just the logistics of it, the multitudes. How many thousands of people were there? How did they get the guy to get the message to Jesus, hey, your mom and your brothers need to talk with you right now?

Now? Can't it wait? No! They're trying to save You from Yourself because You've lost Your marbles.

*Matthew Chapter 10.* I want to begin reading in *verse 34*. Jesus is speaking. **"Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;' and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.'** **He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it."**

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*Luke's Gospel Chapter 14, beginning at verse 25. "Now great multitudes went with Him.*

**And He turned and said to them, "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple."**

Wait, what? Hate? Where's the love? This is the God who is love, the God of love. And He's saying, if I don't hate everyone else, I'm not worthy to be His disciple? What's He saying?

Well, *Matthew 6*, in a different context, will fill in the blank. *Verse 24, "No one can serve two masters."*

You can't follow them and also follow Me. You cannot love Me and be devoted to Me if you still have attachments to and are devoted to someone else. Notice He says, "you cannot," not "you should not." You can't. It's an impossibility. It's, "either/or."

**"Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. [And this is in the context of money] You cannot serve both God and money."**

Now this applies to people too. Who or what is the object of your affection and devotion? Has it taken that place in your life that belongs only to Jesus at the center of your life, His rightful place on the throne of your life?

Because see, the decision is ours, and the pull is strong because you love them. But like Jesus would ask Peter, **"Do you love these more than Me?"** What Jesus is saying is that devotion and allegiance to Him requires that we forsake everyone and everything that would compete for that.

So you got a family member that is in direct opposition to you. What are you going to do? You're going to acquiesce and cower and falter, and in so doing, you're going to —because you love them — it's going to come at the expense of your love and devotion and allegiance to Jesus.

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Well, we would never say that, but that's what we're saying. That's called idolatry, by the way, when anything or anyone becomes more important than the person of Jesus Christ in your life.

And as we saw on Thursday, when Nebuchadnezzar prostrates himself before Daniel, after he told him what his dream was and then interpreted the dream, I mean, the most powerful man in the known world, this is unthinkable. He's prostrating himself before Daniel and acknowledging “...**your god is the God of gods.**”

Now, at first that sounds, wow, cool! Wrong. He's not the God of gods. He's God, period. Don't put other gods — oh, wow, Daniel, your God, he just went to the top of the list of gods.

Oh, so you got these other gods before Him then? Oh, other gods competing with Him then? Oh, so He's got a pretty high rating? He got five stars this week. So He's now the God of gods. He's the top now, at least for now. We've got these other gods over here too, you know.

No. He's either God, or not. He is either your master, or He's not. If He's not your master, then someone or something else is your master. You're dancing to the beat of the drum of that thing or that one in your life, and it comes at the expense of one's devotion to Jesus.

I want to draw your attention to *2 Timothy, Chapter 3*. I'll read *verses 1-5*. I know we talk about this often. We, in fact, talked about this a little bit last week, but there's something here that I think is most applicable in terms of this matter that we're discussing today.

Now, Paul is writing to Timothy, a young pastor he basically mentored, fathered in the faith. He was his protege, but he was a young guy, and he pastored this church. And Paul is writing to him, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and he's going to tell him, Timothy, this is what is going to characterize the last days.

He says, “**But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.**” [*Perilous times, some of your translations render it*]

And then He goes on to list 19 characteristics of these perilous last days. Timothy, this is what it's going to look like. This is what will mark it. This is what will characterize it.

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And I need to, before I go through this, and I will briefly, it is important to understand that he would not write this, inspired by the Holy Spirit, speaking of the world. He's speaking of the Christian because why would he say "perilous" if it were about the world? That's to be expected.

No, he's talking about the Christian and the church in the last days, and this is what is going to characterize it. And this is why it is so perilous. So here's the list.

**"People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, [And I underlined this one] conceited, [A puffed up, fancied, self-importance, thinking of oneself more highly than they ought] lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— having a form of godliness [Outwardly] but denying its power [Inwardly] Have nothing to do with them."**

*2 Peter Chapter 3:3-4*, and then we'll look at a couple more verses in this chapter. You know this well, but it's going to be germane to our understanding of what I want to talk about.

**"First of all [Peter writes] you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, "Where is this 'coming' He promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation."**

In *verses 8 and 9* he goes on to say, **"But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."**

And lastly, *1 Timothy Chapter 3:15*, **"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. [Sanctify Him in your hearts; set Him apart] Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."**

Be respectful. Let your words be seasoned with grace and be gentle.

Well, if you'll kindly allow me to, I want to take these powerful passages and prophecies and apply them to the matter at hand, namely, as it relates to what we can do in the face of

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opposition from those closest to us, whether they be in our home, our workplace, or even our brothers and sisters in Christ.

So I've — I whittled it down to five. I hope that should, you know, alone, encourage you because I have so many more. But I abbreviated it to five, five often-asked questions in this regard, and I want to provide biblical answers that, again, I'm hoping will be of some help and encouragement to you.

Question Number 1:. What do you say to a young person who says the reason they're not excited about the pre-tribulation rapture is because they have their whole life ahead of them?

While in all fairness, this is understandable, that young person is making many assumptions, all of which are based on this notion that the rapture would mean that they would miss out on living a long and fulfilling life.

There are no less than two problems with this, the first of which is that they assume that their life won't be rife with pain and suffering, especially in these perilous times of the last days. I hope you know. I say it often. I hope you don't tire of me saying it, but the saying goes, “you ain't seen nothing yet.”

This — this is the beginning of the end. It is going to get so much worse. You think this is bad now? Here's the second problem with that assumption. They're also assuming that there's still time left in human history to even live a long and fulfilled life at this juncture in human history, at this point in human history.

Maybe I should expound on that. If you dare — I probably could say it in a better way — but at least I didn't say, “I dare you.” But if you dare to — that's better — do your own research. And I'm not just talking about, well, you probably would be hard pressed to find it from Christian sources.

Sadly, it's an indictment on Christian pastors and teachers and leaders. You have to go to the non-Christian to find out this information. But if you dare to even look at what's really happening, you will be stunned. And I mean stunned.

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Just the — one — one only — and (Sighing deeply) with what is happening right now, God is going to have to step in, as Jesus said in *Matthew 24*, and shorten the days because if He didn't, no human flesh would even survive.

You know when you go out and you see a film on your car? It's not from fireworks in March or April. Where are we? April? Well, it's April, yeah. It's not pollen.

Oh, yeah, but I live close to the ocean.

Fine, but this has got a weird color to it. You know, um, at this rate, it is believed that humankind, mankind, the evil satanic assault on humans is such that you would be really, again, hard pressed to get ten years left.

So back to this question for that young person, which we're going to talk about at the conclusion more — I have an amazing testimony from a 25-year-old — you're making some assumptions that do not have their basis in reality. Here's another assumption.

It's what I refer to as the misnomer of post-rapture disappointment.

What's that?

It's the assumption that in eternal life, people are going to wonder about what could have been in this life. I assure you on the authority of God's word that is not going to happen!

[ Laughter ]

You will — (Chuckling) I mean, think about it, right? Nobody in post-rapture — the trumpet sounds — Wow! No! I mean — you know — oh, I thought you — JD, you said you had questions you wanted to ask the Lord when you got here. Never mind. I'm just going, **“Oh, worthy is the Lamb that was slain!!!”**

[ Applause ]

John says it like this. [Nope] **“We're going to know no man after the flesh,”** which is a really good biblical answer for somebody that says, “Are we gonna know each other in heaven?”

I like how one pastor answered — this is not my answer, so don't email me — “You're not going to be more stupid in heaven than you are here.”

[ Laughter ]

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Again, that's — I'm quoting — I did not say that.

[ Laughter ]

No, we're going to know, but we're not going to know people after the flesh, who they were here, nor will we ourselves — we're going to be actually talking about this at the — in Second Service at the conclusion of the teaching in Revelation.

But I assure you, on the authority of God's word that there will never be anybody in eternity that will ever say anything like, “Oh man! I wish You would have waited until after I got married.”

[ Laughter ]

Not going to happen. I know that's a dramatic and silly way to illustrate it, but I think you get the point.

Question Number 2: What do you say to a husband or wife that doesn't agree with you, or worse, is even hostile towards you and your excitement about the pre-tribulation rapture?

They don't want to hear it. Just stop. Well, first and foremost, don't be blindsided by it. This in and of itself is a prophetic sign, as we just saw in the aforementioned scriptures, particularly what Peter wrote about how this will also be a sign of the last of days. I mean, this mocking and ridiculing and hostility will just continue to increase.

Not just the Apostle Peter, but even the Apostle Paul writes about this, and they couch it in terms of being very gentle and respectful towards them and not arguing with them. This is so important. I've never argued somebody into the truth or into the kingdom.

I mean, have you? You're sharing the Gospel; it gets a little bit heated, and you start, you know, kind of... (Shaking head and body as if annoyed)

[ Laughter ]

You know what I'm talking about? You don't have to put words that one. And it's getting a little bit, you know, kind of “Oh yeah? Well, what about you?”

“Well, what about...”

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I've never had anybody in the middle of that say to me, "You're right. I'm wrong. What must I do to be saved?" Have you? No, you know, what happens instead is you win the argument, but you lose the opportunity to win that person to Christ.

And by the way, it happens on social media every day, thousands of times a day, millions of times a day, all over the world. Oh, you post. You're so right. And you're — you're right. They're wrong. And you even called them names. Wait, how are you going to win them to Christ?

You're not. You may have won that, you know, social media, whatever they call it. I don't know if they have a word for it. They should. It should start with an H, as in hell. You might have won that one, but you lost that opportunity. You will never be the one to lead them to Christ. They are not your enemy. They are the mission field. They're not the enemy. They're the opportunity.

Yeah, but they believe this and that.

Well, what were you believing before you came to Christ? Like Paul says of the Corinthians, **"As were some of you."**

What? Yeah. Homosexuals. You? What? I mean, before you came to Christ, were you all that?

I better get back on message here because we still got a couple more. I want to add one more thing to this. I want you to think about this. It may be that they're actually watching you to see if you're the real deal.

And by the way, they want you to be the real deal. Because they're asking two questions about your life and my life. Are you the real deal, and does it work? And they want you to be the real deal, and they want it to work.

Because if you're the real deal and this works, then there's hope for them. And conversely, if it doesn't, they have no hope. They want the hope that you have.

This is why Peter says, **"...be ready when they ask you about the hope,"** which is why maybe nobody's asked you about the hope because why would you ask somebody about something they don't have the answer to?



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I better be careful because that's — first of all, I'm getting convicted. When was the last time you had somebody say, you know, you're so different? What is it about you? You see what's going on in the world, and you get excited, and you have hope, and everybody else is freaking out, and you're getting ready to check out. What's up with that?

Oh, I'm so glad you asked. Let me explain to you and show you why I have that hope. His name is Jesus.

But why would they ask you if they don't see that hope in you to ask you about? I'm going to leave it there because I'm even more convicted now.

Question Number 3: What do you say to that family member, friend, coworker, or even fellow Christian that accuses you of being just another one of those conspiracy theorists?

They send you a meme with a tinfoil hat guy on there. Memes are mean. Memes are mean, or they can be. All right, so what? What do you do?

Well, first of all, welcome to my world. This requires spiritual discernment. Approach this very carefully and prayerfully by ascertaining whether or not they want an answer or an argument.

Okay. If they're only looking for an argument, you will never satiate them despite the irrefutable and factual evidence to the contrary. Don't waste your time.

Conversely, if they genuinely — you'll be able to discern this— spiritually discern this — if they genuinely want an answer, then be prepared. Be at the ready. Rightly divide God's word, so you can give them an answer from Scripture of that hope that you have. And know where to go in the Word, so that you won't be ashamed or embarrassed when you can't find it for them.

I had a guy — he's walking with the Lord now — He got saved. It was many, many years ago back in the '90s. And I always carried my Bible in the pocket of my driver's side door, and he started asking me all the right questions about the hope that I had.

Of course, I'm trying to win him to Christ. And so he starts asking me questions, and I'm answering Him. He says, no, I want you to show me in the Bible.

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I thought, wow, thank God I knew where to go in the Bible! Hey, if you got to use stickies and, you know, all of that, that's fine. So I pulled it out — I pulled over, and I pulled my Bible out, and I went through the scriptures with them and gave him an answer.

Question Number 4: What do you say to someone who takes you to task concerning your belief that “this is it, man, this is the end”?

And they think you're crazy because you actually believe “this is it, baby, we're that generation.” So whenever the topic or conversation is about the next generation, you're like, no, uh-huh! What kind of a world are we going to leave to the next generation?

We ain't.

[ Laughter ]

Because we're that last generation. See question Number 1. Okay, seriously. It's a good question. It's a fair question. And in all fairness, this question comes packaged with the many date setters, so-called, that have done great damage over the years.

But thankfully, Peter, inspired by the Holy Spirit, equips us with the best biblical way to deal with this. Again, gently and respectfully show them in God's word where He has shown us what the world will look like at the time of the end.

Take him the *2 Timothy 3*. Take him to *Matthew 24*. Have a working knowledge of God's word. And don't let the enemy scare you with the *Book of Revelation*.

You can take them to the *Book of Revelation* and say, question, I have a — actually, I'm getting ahead of myself. It's very appropriate. I found this very helpful myself.

Ask them questions in response. Jesus did. When you ask somebody a question, you're really opening them up to actually thinking. Imagine that. What a novel idea. They might have to think. And an open-ended question; don't give them multiple choice.

Open-ended question: Well, you know... And Jesus, throughout the Gospels, you'll see Jesus asking them questions. In fact, I love it when He does this. He answers their question with a question. **“Your disciples were saying that we should not pay taxes to Caesar.”**

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So... Never mind. That's — I don't have time. Ah, I would have loved to have been there though.

And He shuts them down. Now, that's — that's not to say that we're, you know, our goal is to shut them down. No, we want to win them to Christ.

But the Bible tells us that this is what the world's gonna look like at the time of the end, and appeal to their sense of reason and ask them: Does the world today look like what the Bible says the world will look like at the time of the end?

Oh my goodness! Are you kidding me right now? You can take them to what just happened in Israel. Take them to *Ezekiel 38*. Have fun with it.

Stop being the frozen chosen.

[ Laughter ]

When you came to Christ, He did not require you to assassinate your personality and your sense of humor. I am a Christian now. (Said in a stone-cold voice)

No, God. No. He gave you that personality. I'm afraid some Christians have the personality of a toaster.

[ Laughter ]

You know, have fun with it. Just say, you know, “Hey, you heard about what happened in Israel? Yes, it's right here. Here's the news report. Here it says — it's right here, verbatim. **“At the end of days.”** And not only are we told what's going to happen, we're told why. **“So that they will know that I am the Lord their God, and there is no other.”**

This fifth and final question is one that I want to spend the remainder of our time together today addressing. I'll be brief, but, by virtue of the nature of this particular question, we're going to go ahead at this time and end the livestream on Facebook and YouTube. And hopefully, you're already at the website.

By way of a preface, please know that I in no way wish to come off as unloving, but rather I do wish to speak the loving truth in love and because of love.

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Because isn't it true that if you don't care, you're not going to bother? And if you do love somebody enough, you're going to tell them the truth, even though it might wound them.

**“The wounds of a friend are faithful and can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses,”** and just tells you what you want to hear. So this is just the truth in love.

Question Number 5: What do you say to someone whether they are a Christian or not, that is so deceived by virtually everything that's happening in the world today, and by everything, I mean from Covid-19 and the so-called vaccine to the deception of this election and everything in between?

They're just so deceived. They don't see it. What do you do? What do you say to somebody like that?

And what makes it infinitely more complicated and even hurtful, is that they're a brother or sister in Christ, and they're just so deceived. So what do you do?

I don't know, let's close in prayer. We'll...

[ Laughter ]

Bear with me. I'm going to speak not just in the broad sense, but more so really in the personal sense, specifically, when this deception hits too close to home with someone you know very well, really care about, or truly love deeply. That's what makes it so hard.

So what's the answer? Well, at the risk of an oversimplification, you can start by being patient with them, loving towards them, and above all, be praying for them. Why? Because the truth is, it's only the Holy Spirit that leads one into the truth. And we would all do well, myself included, to give the Holy Spirit the elbow room to do so.

Also, and this has helped me tremendously personally. Rest and trust in the Lord and wait on the Lord, knowing that He wants them to have ears to hear more than even you do.

I think about the parents of a wayward daughter, prodigal son. A great encouragement to you is that God wants them back and right more than you ever could. And here's the other thing: He loves them more than you ever will. That should settle your heart.

Well, the same applies to those that are just — they're so deceived. The Lord wants them to not be deceived. Why do you think that all of Bible prophecy has at the top of the list:

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**“Don't be deceived”?** Actually, it's even more specific than that. **“Let no man deceive you.”**

You know what the key word there is? Not **“deceive.”** **“Let.”**

The inference being that we let people deceive us, and deceived people deceive people. Let me say that again. We're almost done. Deceived people will deceive people. Don't let them deceive you. They're deceived. Don't let them deceive you. **“Let no man deceive you.”**

Okay, so trust in the Lord. Wait on the Lord. Does that mean I just sit idly by and do nothing? Absolutely not. We must continue to do everything and stop at nothing to get Jesus to people and people to Jesus and keep our hands to the plow of God's calling on our lives.

Seize every opportunity while there's still time. There may be more at play when it comes to this, and it's of paramount importance that all of us, again, myself included, consider this.

Think this through with me. Could it be that you're not the vessel that God chooses and uses to reach that particular loved one in your life?

What do you mean, Pastor?

Well, God may choose and use another that's not so close to home, if you will, from whom they will receive from instead of you. Don't take it personally.

*Marks' Gospel Chapter 6, beginning in verse 1.* You know this account. **“Jesus left there and went to His hometown, [Speaking of Nazareth] accompanied by His disciples. When the Sabbath came, He began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard Him were amazed.**

*[Wait!]* **“Where did this man get these things?”** they asked. **“What's this wisdom that has been given Him that He even does miracles! Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James and Joseph and Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?”** *[I remember Him when He was in diapers] [That's not in the original] [I just probably should qualify that]*

**And they took offense at Him. And Jesus said to them, [And I want you to listen very carefully] “Only in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honor.”**

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*[Verse 5 tells us]* **He could not do any miracles there, except lay His hands on a few sick people and heal them. And He was amazed at their lack of faith. Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village.”**

What's the point? The point is this: Maybe you're too close to home. And you're not the vessel. And again, don't take offense to that. Don't take it personally. God will bring — in fact, that should be and has been for me over the years my prayer specifically. God, I'm not the vessel in their lives. They made that very clear.

[ Laughter ]

They blocked me on all social media, you know, platforms. I'm not the guy. Please send someone who is. Send somebody into their life as that vessel from whom they will receive.

There's one more thing that I'll just mention for today, and it's one for which I'm still praying about, thinking about, doing research on, and planning on, Lord willing, talking about as early as next week.

What I'm speaking of is the strange and sudden change in the personalities of people who've been injected, even if it was just one time or more than one time. I've been, working on this. And I think I did mention this briefly last week. But you think you're the one that's crazy, but you're not.

And when you understand the neurological evidence from the neurologists and the scientists, which I have that information and documentation, then all of a sudden, it changes everything.

And it's a game-changer in every sense of the word. Well, that explains it. They break the blood-brain barrier. Now, I want you to think about this, and then we'll bring it in for a close. The mind is what makes us human. The mind is what makes us human.

So if Satan wants to alter humankind, he has to get to the human brain to do it. When we get to the — well, if we get, I should preface it — in the *Book of Revelation*, there's a prophecy — during the tribulation — about people wanting to die, but they can't, and they're walking zombies.

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Do you know why they can't die? Because they got into the brain, and they're keeping — you know somebody can be dead, but — brain dead — but their body's still functioning on machines. Was that too much? I'm sorry to end on such a note.

But I would covet your prayers for next week because unless the Lord directs me otherwise, this is the direction I'm sensing He would have us to go. The sudden change, and the behavior so strange.

And now there's a neurological explanation for it. And it's in the spike protein that breaks that blood-brain barrier. And that's why people are acting the way they are.

See, if they can dominate the mind and control the mind, then they become complicit and docile. And all of a sudden, the emotions that make us so human are gone. I don't know if you've noticed it.

And this will be the last thing I say, and we'll close, but I don't know if you've noticed it, but man, when I am out and about, which again, isn't very often now especially. It's so heartbreaking because I look at people. They're just like walking zombies. They don't smile anymore, let alone at you.

You know me. Well, I like to, you know, start up a, you know, conversation. Hey! And they're just like — they walk away — this guy is crazy. No, actually, I think you're the one.

[ Laughter ]

What happened to you? You know, you're at the checkout, and... And it's just — they're just robotic and stoic and going through the motions. What happened to you? Well, now I think I know what happened to you.

Is there still hope for you? Absolutely. They've damaged your brain. They've damaged your DNA, which is why many people are dying suddenly. But there's still hope for you before, in the tribulation, they alter the human DNA, making them transhuman.

Okay. Well, let me close this way and simply say that now, like never before, Bible prophecy is hitting too close to home for us to just ignore anymore.

And this is why we end with the Gospel, the good news, the ABCs of salvation, which are just a childlike explanation of salvation should God ever present you with the profound privilege

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and opportunity to share Jesus with somebody. This is how to get saved. This is not the only way. This is just a way, a simple way.

The A is for admit or acknowledge. I'm a sinner, and I need the Savior. *Romans 3:10* says, **"There is no one righteous, [No one good] not even one."** You might be a good person. You'll never be good enough.

And *Romans 3:23* tells us why. It's because **"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."** We were all born sinners, which is why, Jesus said, **"...we must be born-again to enter the kingdom of heaven."**

*Romans 6:23* is sort of the bad news first, with the good news next. What's the bad news? Well, there's a penalty for your sin, and it's the death penalty. **"For the wages of sin is death, but [Here's the good news] the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."**

He purchased you, paid in full. **"You are not your own..."** Purchased with a price. It cost Him everything. And He's paying for the gift that He offers to you of eternal life.

That's the A; here's the B, and this is so central. Believe in your heart. And this is not a "Well, yeah, I believe in God."

No, this is a putting your trust in, believing in your heart that Jesus Christ is Lord. He's the only way to the Father. He's THE way, THE truth, and THE life.

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

*John 3:16*, The most well-known verse in all of the Bible has at its core **"...whosoever would believe would not perish but have everlasting life."**

And lastly, **"Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks."** And that's the C: To call upon the name of the Lord or **"confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord."**

See, if I have Jesus in my heart, I believe Jesus is Lord in my heart, then that's what's going to come out of my mouth. *Romans 10:13* says, **"All who call upon the name of the Lord will [It's a done deal] [It is finished] will be saved."** Period. Not comma.



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And aren't you glad when Jesus uttered those final words, **"It is finished,"** He didn't say, "however," "if," "except" "comma."

I did My part. Now it's your turn. That's not grace. That's works. I'm saved by grace, not by works. **"It's the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."** **"I'm saved by grace through faith."**

All right, let's end with today's "But God Testimony," which actually is an email we received. I decided to share it. It's from Ezralee Anne, and it is just so encouraging. I hope you're going to be as encouraged by this as I was. She's a 25-year-old. That's the age of my firstborn son.

And she writes this. "My dad loves watching your Prophecy Updates and sermons. *[I love you too, Dad]* He has been watching you since 2020. We live in Canada. I'm a 25-year-old woman.

Last night, March 25th, my dad was telling me about your most recent sermon. He was very encouraged. He mentioned how you said that young people aren't excited about the rapture. That got me thinking *[a 25-year-old]*

So I wrote a post about it. I read it to my dad tonight, and he suggested I should share it with you. I prayed about it and am led to share this with you. Thanks for encouraging my family. Keep going. Here's my post on Instagram.

**"Whom have I in heaven but You? And earth has nothing I desire besides You."** That's *Psalm 73:25-26*. *[She writes]* This verse keeps repeating itself in my mind today. I keep thinking about the simple but profound aspects of this passage. It's so powerful. *[25 years old!]*

My dad *[This is her post]* My dad was saying tonight how he heard a preacher. say that young people aren't excited for the rapture and for Jesus to come back.

They want to live their life and do all the things here before going to eternity. They want that job. They want that house. They want that degree. They want that marriage or relationship. They want that friendship. They want that travel experience. They want that baby. They want that bank account balance. They want that fame. They want that success,

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*[What a post!]* whatever it is they desire the most, and they don't want Jesus to come back before they get to experience those things.

As he was talking, I thought of this verse “**...and earth has nothing I desire besides You.**” *[Again, Psalm 73]* I've always wanted to be married. That's the thing I wanted the most in the world. But even the thing I want the most that is good can't compare to who Jesus is and to eternity with Him. *[25-year-old!]*

I pray you *[This is her post]* I pray surrender what you want and what you desire to Jesus, letting Him show you how He is far more desirable than the thing in this world that you want the most. He genuinely is the highest treasure. “**Where your treasure is, your heart will be also,**” *Matthew 6:21.*

Where is your treasure? What does your heart want the most? If it's not Jesus, there needs to be some self-evaluation and self-assessment going on.

Let the Holy Spirit show you the true condition of your heart. Eternity is not second best. It's the highest prize. Never, and I mean never, forget that! Bless you! Ezralee.”

Wow! How's that one?

[ Applause ]

Come on up. Why don't you stand? Woo-hoo-hoo! Thank you, Ezralee, for that! Thank you, Dad, for Ezralee! Wow! And thank You, Lord!

It's true. “**Who is like unto You?**” Who or what is it that we treasure more than You? What is it in this life that we're holding on to instead of You?

Oh, Lord, You're always so gentle in how You do it. But just loosen our ever-tightening grip on this world and the things of this world. “**And though none go with us, still we will follow.**” We will pick up our cross and deny ourselves and die to ourselves to follow You. Thank You, Lord.

Take this now, and take it from here, by the Holy Spirit. Thank You for giving me the privilege to even stand behind this pulpit and teach and preach. Jesus, we love You so much. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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