

## Bible Prophecy Update – August 11, 2024

### Links

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KAPONO: Would you bow your heads and join me in a word of prayer? Lord, thank You for our battles are Yours, Lord. Would You go before us this morning? Lord, prepare our hearts. Prepare our minds. Take away any thoughts, Lord, whether heavy or just anything that's distracting us, Lord, that we may be able to receive Your word and understanding. Give us understanding, Lord, through your Holy Spirit, Lord.

Thank You so much for this time that we can gather together as a family and get into Your living word, Lord, that brings us life. So bless our time together. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

PASTOR JD: Amen and Amen. And good morning and welcome. So glad you're here. You can be seated. Those of you online, we're so glad that you're joining with us as well.

Before though we get started, I've asked a dear friend of mine and the ministry, Steve White — who many of you know from the missions in the Philippines that we support, I have to put the pulpit back together here — did you notice that when Kaponono was praying, broke it? And then Kaponono, bless his heart, he just kept praying. It's kind of like, and I just pray, Lord, that Pastor JD will fix the pulpit so I can stop praying.

Anyway, Steve, would you come up, please? I wanted Steve to share a miracle. We saw and heard one on Tuesday from Walt Cheshire. Well, we got another one for you today. By the way, God is still in the business of doing miracles. So anyway, Steve, please share if you will.

STEVE: All right. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

Well, good morning, everyone. What a wonderful blessing it is to be here this morning joining you all in fellowship. And thank you, Pastor JD, for affording me some time here to come and share a testimony of faith and just the Lord's greatness.

These past four months the Lord has given me a life-learning experience of what is written in *Isaiah 55:8-9*, where He says, **“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.”**

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Back on March 26th of this year, I left the island of Boracay, where we're missionaries, for a follow-up appointment with my cardiologist in Manila. This was in regard to some tests that I had done a few weeks prior.

Well, the results of that test led me on a four-month journey that included a trip back to Cleveland to the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio, a major open-heart surgery. And there's a lot that was going on at the time that just really revealed God's presence. When I had that test done, I came back to the hospital and my cardiologist, he had an emergency surgery.

So I saw another cardiologist that was going to read the exam. And as they are sitting there reading this exam that they had just received and looking at me, she's looking at this saying, "This is serious. You need surgery, like today." She said, "I don't mean to scare you." I'm like, "Oh, you're not."

[ Congregation says, "Too late." ]

STEVE: Too late, yeah. But it was — it turned out — so when my cardiologist the next day scheduled me for an angiogram, he attempted a couple stents in my — they call it the LAD artery. That's the widow maker. And he popped a few balloons, and afterwards he said, "I think I need to refer you for bypass."

And so that was what was planned there in Manila, that I would have bypass surgery, and they'd go in through my ribcage. And in the meantime, I discovered I had a really rare blood type. And it's hard to find in the Philippines. And so they asked me a favor if I could find some. I'm like...(Shrugging shoulders) I don't think 7-Eleven is going to have...

So anyway, we figured that they had enough just to do a simple bypass through the rib cage. Well, when they got in there, they did another test before they started to do that and discovered that one of my valves was leaking pretty severely.

So they came out to my wife, Herlyn and asked, hey, should, you know, this is the case. We need to open him up. And she said, no, I think he needs to make that decision. And praise God she was giving me some grace that day; otherwise, they might have gone ahead.

But they went ahead and pulled me off the table. And at that time, I had a friend in Hawaii that said, Steve, you need to get out of Manila. You need to come to the mainland. And he

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referred me to this clinic back in Ohio. I guess it's a major heart center. I had no idea. And come to find out yeah, it's one of the best in the world.

And it just so happens that we have a family of supporting missionaries that come to Boracay annually. They're in Ohio, about an hour south of the clinic. So we contacted them. We stayed with them. We got to do fellowship. They were there with Herlyn and Mikaella as I underwent open heart, and God just blessed that whole time there. And it's just quite amazing.

And but obviously, this was not what I had planned of or thought of. You know, obviously I would have preferred to stay in Boracay and continue the ministry that God had called us to. But God had a different plan, which I was reminded constantly of *Proverbs 16:9*, **“A man's heart plans his way, but God directs his steps.”** Right?

You may have heard me quote that before, but this time it had a whole new meaning. And as I stand here before you today, I'm just so very thankful for the journey that the Lord has blessed me with because His ways are far, far higher than my ways, and His thoughts far, far higher than my thoughts.

And I'm so very thankful that the Lord has decided to give me more time to serve Him and the people of Boracay and Panay. For had I not taken that journey, my days would most likely have been much shorter. And so during this time, the Lord has also blessed me with the lesson of humility. We all need that, right? (Chuckling)

And so when I get stressed out about how important I think my role is while serving in the ministry, the Lord reminds me that He most certainly can get by without me. He doesn't need me to accomplish His ways. He doesn't need my plans. But He allows me to serve Him in a capacity that will give Him all the praise, honor, and glory.

And so often we can get tripped up on thinking how important our role is in serving others. And please don't get me wrong, our role is important, but not to the point that we assume that we must have control over every little detail. It is God who is in control. We just need to trust in Him.

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Lean not on our own understanding — and His will — um, lean not on our own understanding. He will direct our paths. As believers, every trial that we encounter is a journey to grow closer to Him. Let us grasp that and be joyful in that.

I love what James writes in *Chapter 1*. **“My brethren, consider it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”**

That's God's will for us, that we will be perfect and complete as we are made into His image. Some of the refining process can be painful. Some of it can seem to be overwhelming at times. Some of it might even seem unnecessary to us. But if we hold steadfast to our faith, we know it is for our good.

As Paul writes in *Romans 8:28*, **“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”**

So with that, may I proceed to a brief update on the ministry that took place while God directed our way these past four months. Without us being there in the field, both schools were able to complete the school year, with graduation taking place in May.

And out of a staff of 30 teachers between both schools, 25 teachers have chosen to remain for this coming school year, which is a huge blessing and a testimony that God is working in the hearts of our teachers because our teachers get a private school wage, which is about a third of what the public-school pays.

So any time that they decide to stay another year that really tells me that God is moving in their hearts. For the school year that just started last week, we have been blessed with another record enrollment, nearly 200 students at our Ati tribal school on the island of Panay, and over 300 students at our school on Boracay, of which closely one third of them are Muslim children being taught the Gospel.

Another testimony of faith: That God kept guiding our staff while we have been away. The roof for our Boracay school that we've been praying for is well underway with all the needed permits gaining favor. All this happened while we were away.

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Our pastoral ministry just completed their fourth training session this past week with an enrollment of nearly 200 pastors and church leaders, while we were away. Our college ministry for the Ati tribal students continues to move forward with plans to hire a full-time English tutor and administrator upon our return, and the first Ati tribal teacher who graduated college and passed her board exam is now teaching at our school this year, while we were away.

So praise God for that.

[ Applause ]

I am just so amazed at how God has used these past four months to take us on a journey outside His ministry that He called us to and continue to bless and multiply His goodness while we're away. He is so very faithful, and He is so, so good. God bless you all and thank you for being such a great part of God's family in the Philippines.

[ Applause ]

PASTOR JD: That was such a good word. But had I known that he was going to convict me, I don't know if I would have given you as much time. We'll talk before Second Service, maybe, about that. Isn't that amazing? God doesn't need us. Yeah, when you take time off, and then God blesses the ministry more than had you not taken time off. That's a....

[ Laughter ]

And in fact, I'm going to change the whole Prophecy Update and sermon today now. That was so good. What a great word. Praise the Lord! Thank you for sharing, Steve. Know that you have a church ohana here that is fully supporting you and your ohana there in the Philippines and the work that you do there. And we praise the Lord, and we thank the Lord for you.

We have a saying in Arabic, it's kind of a saying and a prayer at the same time. God keep me for Him and Him for me. So I'm going to revise it and just pray and say, Lord, keep Steve for us and us for Him. And then I'm going to smudge my mascara, so I better stop.

All right, well, let's get to it. We have two services on Sunday as you know, the first of which is our weekly Bible Prophecy Update. And then Second Service is actually the sermon, a

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verse-by-verse study through the word of God. We're currently in Revelation. Lord willing today we're actually going to complete the entirety of *Chapter 4*.

And I've titled the sermon 'What We'll See And Be In Heaven.' And what we're going to do is look at several exciting and encouraging truths about what we'll see and be after the pre-Tribulation rapture in heaven when we're caught up to heaven. It is so grand and glorious that which awaits. As the Apostle Paul said, **“No eye has seen, no ear has heard.”** It is unfathomable for us to even begin to understand the glory that awaits.

So that'll be livestreamed 11:15 a.m. Hawaii time for those of you online. And for those of you that are watching by way of YouTube or Facebook, we'd really encourage you to not, to actually go to [JDFarag.org](http://JDFarag.org) for the Update because we don't stream the entirety of the Update for censorship reasons. But if you go to the website there, you will find it in its uncensored entirety.

All right. So Monday, last week, I'm following all of the happenings and inquiring of the Lord and made the decision to do an urgent Prophecy Update today due to the unprecedented recent worldwide events of profound, and I mean profound, prophetic significance.

Now, please know that — and I hope you know this. I in no way wish to sound sensational. However, I do wish to sound the alarm because it seems that, well, this time it's time. And for those who stay abreast of what's happening, you know what's happening right now. Virtually every country on earth is on fire, in some cases, literally.

I read an article just the other day. In Oregon 150 million, with an M, acres are burning in Oregon. And it's just one place. All over the world. And then when you go to Israel, even as we speak, Israel is on the cusp of an all-out war, exactly as we're told it would be in Bible prophecy.

Here's what I'm hoping to accomplish in our time together today. It's actually twofold. First, it's really, I should say, first and foremost, to provide encouragement to battle weary believers, of which I know there are many. Just keep holding on. It's not that on much longer. I know you're hanging on by a thread, but at least you're hanging on by a thread. Just keep hanging on to that thread because it's time this time.



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Second, in concert with encouraging believers who need encouragement — would you agree? As the Apostle Paul would say to the Thessalonians, “... **encourage one another with these words.**”

What words? The words in God's word about the pre-Tribulation rapture of the church. Encourage one another. Why else would the Apostle Paul be inspired by the Holy Spirit to say, “**encourage one another**” if they weren't already discouraged? Which is why they needed to be encouraged and encourage one another.

If you could just read my inbox — actually, don't read my inbox. It doesn't take long to realize that people from all over the world are just really hurting right now and really struggling right now. And it's getting harder.

And so my chief aim is to encourage believers, but also, I'm hoping to reach nonbelievers. Because there's not much time. Because it's time. It's time to choose this day who it is that you're going to serve. Choose life.

Choose eternal life found in the person of Jesus Christ while there's still time. Because tomorrow is not guaranteed, and even if that trumpet doesn't sound, which I hope it does before Second Service when Steve shares again. But even if that trumpet doesn't sound, tomorrow is not guaranteed, you know. Today is the day of salvation.

So that's my second aim today. And at the conclusion of our time together, I'll explain very simply. The good news of salvation found in the person of Jesus Christ.

Well, if you'll kindly allow me to, I want to explain some of the reasons for doing an urgent Prophecy Update like this. By the way, I don't do this very often. In fact, I think it's been about a couple three years since the last time we did an urgent Prophecy Update. If that tells you anything, just to kind of put it into perspective.

So to do this, I want to draw your attention to the recent and current events that unmistakably point to the urgency of this last hour. And we're going to start with what's affectionately referred to as God's prophetic clock, Israel.

You want to know what time it is in Bible prophecy? You need look no further than to Israel. The hour hand is Israel, the minute hand, Jerusalem, the second hand, the Temple Mount,

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and you'll know what time it is in terms of Bible prophecy. Look to Israel and the Jewish people.

I'm about to show you a Wall Street Journal publication with a photo that might be a little bit heartbreaking. I know it was for me. You know that saying? A picture is worth a thousand words. I think this picture says it all.

It was published in the Wall Street Journal bearing the title 'Everything is Collapsing': Israeli Reservists Confront Toll of Protracted War.' Think about this. They've been at war, this elongated, prolonged, without respite war coming at Israel from all sides, all fronts, all day, every day, all night, every night. I look at this Israeli IDF soldier, and the first thing I do is, if he doesn't know his true Messiah, I pray that he would.

And then the second thing is, is that I pray for supernatural strength for this man who looks — talk about battle weary, literally in every sense of the word. The reality of how, to quote the Washington, or the Wall Street Journal, 'Everything is collapsing.'

Would you agree that that is an apt description of what is happening in the world today? Everything is collapsing. And actually, we shouldn't be surprised because when you know the word of God and the God of the word, we're told in the word of God that everything will be collapsing at the time of the end. Everything is falling apart. Or as one said it, actually everything's coming together prophetically.

But this reality of how everything is collapsing is warranted. Given that as of Thursday, this is so fast-moving. Israel has been, and even now still is planning [*Listen*] a potential preemptive strike against Hezbollah and Iran. Notice I didn't say, nor does the article say, “in Iran.” It's “and Iran.”

Why? Why the distinction, the delineation? Because Hezbollah is a proxy of Iran in my birthplace of Lebanon, bordering Israel, from which they operate and are at the ready to wipe Israel off the map, as has been their demonic evil agenda since the last century. Actually, since 1979, if you want to be exact.

According to a report on Channel 13 in Israel published by All Israel News, senior IDF officials have suggested launching a preliminary attack against the Hezbollah terrorist organization in Lebanon before it launches any attack against Israel.

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Now, this is interesting. Here's why. It comes on the heels of Iran threatening to annihilate Israel, with Israel in turn threatening Iran with the aforementioned preemptive strike so as to thwart it.

Well, come on, Pastor, they've been threatening each other for how many years now? Decades. You've been doing these Prophecy Updates for how many years now? You get up here every week, yell at us, spit on us, and tell us that they're about to strike. And it hasn't happened yet. Well, it's time now. It is. How can you be so sure?

Think this through with me. Let me use an analogy. You know in school, the bully, the schoolyard bully? I mean, and they're picking on you. Why is everyone always picking on me? I was the one always being picked on by the bully.

But you know what happens? You're going back and forth. But at some point, you're going to punch it out. I don't know why it is after you punch it out that you become best buds. I think there's a — you know how that works. There's like a respect there. You know? But at some point, you gotta make good on those threats. That's what's happening.

Did you connect those dots? This cannot continue indefinitely. This is unsustainable. Iran cannot just continue just talking smack. Is that bad? It's not, right? Talking smack. If it is, forgive me and suggest to me a replacement. But for now, you can't talk like that unless you're going to follow through on that. Because at some point, the other opponent will. You just cannot lobby these threats back and forth.

And what makes this different this time and leads me to believe that it's time is because it really is just a matter of time before somebody pulls the trigger. They're going to have to. And it's evidenced by this Reuters report.

Listen carefully to this quick quote from Iran's president. I've circled in yellow the headline, but this is the quote that's circled in green. This is from Iran's president Ebrahim Raisi, specifically as it relates to the wording, I want you to pay particular attention to the wording of this.

Quote. An Israeli attack on Iranian territory [*That's in Iran, not Lebanon*] ...an Israeli attack on Iranian territory could radically change dynamics and result in there being nothing left of the "Zionist regime."

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Ha! Someone needs to send a text to him, the scriptures that say that actually that's not going to happen. Israel is not going to get annihilated. In fact, it's the opposite that's true. And we'll talk about that more in a moment.

But interesting, "...radically change the dynamics." These are wordings and phrases that are being used that have not heretofore been used, and also to threaten that if Israel attacks on Iranian territory... I have not been quoting that from up here before. This is unprecedented. And by the way, make no mistake about it, Israel has the potential to do so, and Iran knows it. So it's really come down to who's going to blink first.

Now, what if I told you that this Reuters report that I just quoted was from four months ago, which was, by the way, prior to all that's happened in just the last couple of weeks, actually, even just the last week, actually, just even within the last 24 hours?

Why do point this out? Because when you fast-forward from four months ago to seven days ago and this Israel Today report, it seems that this time, [The time has come] with Iran telling the Arab nations that it will strike Israel despite the risk of all-out war. That's a quote. Okay, now, why is that important?

Well, don't forget that your pastor is an Arab. No, stay with me. Unless you want to leave. You knew that, right? I mean, that didn't come as any surprise to anyone. Just don't tell anybody.

[ Laughter ]

You have to understand something about the Arab culture. While the Iranians are Persians, they speak Farsi. They're not Arabs. They don't speak Arabic. They're Iranians or Persians. Actually, they were never considered Iranians until the last century in the 1900s. They were always known as Persia.

And then they changed their name to Iran, and then they became the Islamic Republic of Iran after they overthrew the Shah of Iran in 1979, under the then presidency of one Jimmy Carter. I was just thinking about a peanut when that — I don't know why. I like peanuts too.

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Here's what you need to know about the Arab people. Okay? I'm gonna let you in on something. When you tell Arabs you're going to do something, you better do it. No. For real.

I just got done quoting you an article from within just the last few days that the Iranians have already told the Arab nations that they're going to strike Israel. You better do it then. Well, if I'm not mistaken, that's what my Bible says they're going to do in *Ezekiel 38* actually. Yeah, we'll come back to that in a moment. It gets worse.

If this weren't bad enough, and this is back in May, by the way, Yahoo News published a Reuters report that Russian forces had already started the first stage of exercises ordered by President Vladimir Putin to simulate preparation for the launch of tactical nuclear weapons. Wait, wait, wait, wait, wait. Russia, Iran, Turkey.

That's *Ezekiel 38*. They're at the ready. All they're waiting for is the green light. I am personally convinced that the Restrainer, the Holy Spirit, as the Restrainer is keeping their finger off the button. It's probably not even a button anymore. It's probably some AI thing, you know, voice activated. I hope nobody says the wrong thing around that.

But God won't let that happen. I think the Restrainer is restraining the evil. Can you imagine? I mean, how evil is the world becoming? Once the Restrainer is out of the way and the church is raptured and removed, all hell is literally going to break loose, *2 Thessalonians 2*. You ain't seen nothing yet, as they say.

Once the Restrainer is out of the way, it's kind of like go ahead! The church is gone. We're the salt that keeps the — preserves. It's a preserving agent. It keeps the world from getting rotten. In the days before refrigeration, they use salt to preserve We're the salt and the light that staves away the darkness.

Now, once you remove that and take the Restrainer, the Holy Spirit, out of the way, wow. Ha! And they're at the ready. They're just waiting for the green light. And once the church is removed in the rapture and the Restrainer is taken out of the way, it's full steam ahead. This is real. And this is serious. So serious are these threats that this time the world is all but expecting Iran to attack Israel and/or Israel to launch a preemptive strike against Iran.

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Now, I have a — I don't want to get ahead of myself here, but you don't necessarily need Iran, Russia, Turkey, et al to strike or invade Israel. It can come by way of a preemptive strike from Israel.

The question on the table, I guess, is — this *Ezekiel 38* prophecy comes at a time when Israel thinks that they are dwelling safely, securely. It's actually better understood in the original Hebrew as confident, better said, arrogant. They're arrogantly confident at the time that this invasion described in *Ezekiel 38* and *39* takes place.

Now, I want to ask you a question. Wouldn't it stand to reason that a preemptive strike on the part of Israel launched against Iran would give them a false sense of security, that they would fancy themselves as dwelling safely if they launched the preemptive strike?

What's my point? My point is this. You don't — you don't dismantle the *Ezekiel 38* prophecy with the preemptive strike on the part of Israel against Iran. In fact, you might actually create it. You might actually start it. Because if Israel does, and they can launch this preemptive strike, I mean, you add to that the hook that God himself says he Himself will put in the jaw of Gog, this leader, and bring him against His people.

This is, you know, for those of you that like to fish, by the way, you know, when Jesus said to the disciples, **“Follow Me, and I'll make you fishers of men,”** I always thought as a young believer, that's cool. I'm going fishing with Jesus. Until I realized that what Jesus meant was that He's going to use me as the hook. That changed the whole complexion of that.

I never — I removed that as a life verse you know. I took it off my wall. It's kind of like, wait a minute. No, you're the bait. I'm going to put the bait on — I'm going to use you to bring the fish in. Well, that's what the hook with the worm does. Okay. If it's better, you can use nets because I know they used nets back then.

But you're not fishing with Jesus. You're bringing in the fish to Jesus. And so He's going to stick you on that hook. That's why it hurts so much sometimes. And He's going to cast you out in there, and He's going to bring in the fish to Him. So have a nice afternoon. You'll never read that Bible passage the same again.

Okay. So back to our war. Did you know we're in a war right now, or about to be? This is so serious that the UK and Egypt have suspended flights and are now being warned not to enter

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Iranian and Lebanese airspace. Why? Because first of all, would you want to book a flight that flies into that airspace right now with all this going on? And this is just the beginning.

So I think this was — I don't — Wednesday, Thursday — it's all a blur. Is it just me or do the weeks go by faster? Is time speeding up? I just saw you guys Thursday, and it's already Sunday. I'm not complaining. I love to see you, but I just — it's like I blinked. It was Thursday. We had our Bible study.

We started Hosea, by the way. What a book. I know I say that about every book. But I just saw you, and I blinked and I'm seeing you again. What are you doing? It's already Sunday morning. Time is going so fast.

So yesterday, early morning. I want to do some follow-up. I want to check on the status of these flight suspensions because again, this is unprecedented. And so I found this 'Times of Israel' report about how instead of lifting the flight suspensions, they're extending them. Now why is this important? Because again, I hope I'm not overusing the word. If I am, you'll forgive me. But this is unprecedented.

Think this through with me. Subsequent to Israel's prophetic rebirth as a nation in May of 1948, May 14th to be exact, as prophesied in the Bible to the tee. Okay, gnat's eyebrow. I haven't used the gnat's eyebrow in a while. The miracle of miracles. Impossible. No, God said — Ezekiel asked, **“Can a nation be born in a day?”** Watch Me now. They were born — their birthday — May 14th, 1948.

But you have to understand that air travel to and from Israel was nebulous at best and virtually nonexistent at worst at that time. First of all, who wanted to — right after they were reborn as a nation — you didn't have a lot of airplanes going in. I don't think they had an airport to have airplanes go to.

Now fast-forward to the present. That was then. This is now. And this time — and for those of you that have been to Israel and Tel Aviv Airport, it is infinitely more serious, given that this report goes on to list all of the airlines in alphabetical order that are, even as we speak, announcing the suspension of their flights.

And do you know how many airlines now, today, fly into Israel? I counted some 17 as of last week, whenever it was, but it was already outdated 24 hours later. Then I checked

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yesterday, and it's already outdated as of yesterday because more and more airlines are following suit. This is huge. And it's sad too.

Here's just one excerpt from the report just to kind of help maybe get your mind around the seriousness and the urgency of this. "Amid the tensions, multiple countries have urged their citizens to stay away from, or evacuate, *[Listen]* Iran, Lebanon, and Israel."

"On Tuesday, Japan became the latest country to do so." Wait. Okay, I'm not good at geography. Israel, Iran, you know, it's actually more like this. Israel. (Shown in tiny size) Iran, Russia. (Shown in HUGE size)

And then Japan out there, all the way over... They're over here though. Yeah, this is worldwide., every nation on earth.

You know, when I first heard about this, it started with the aforementioned article about the UK and Egypt suspending their flights. But then all of a sudden, all these other countries were rushing to be added to the list. And as we speak, they continue to do so.

Enter this Jerusalem Post report citing the rise in the Middle East tensions, which has resulted in what they call a, quote, pause in flights from New York to Israel. Whoa. You know how many Jews live in New York? Those of you that went to Israel with us; we flew out of JFK into Ben-Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv, direct flight, 14 hours in the air, but we got there. Not today, you can't.

You know what makes this sad is that many Israelis are unable to book flights to go back home to and/or with their families and loved ones in Israel. They're stuck wherever they were at, at the time. There are no planes going in and out in anticipation of what some believe will be during the Ninth of Av.

Oh, man, Pastor, what's that now? Well, I don't want to get too far off into this, but for those of you that are students of Bible prophecy, you know the significance of the Ninth of Av, which, by the way, I believe starts, you know because their days and their calendar's different. But I think it starts tomorrow. So enjoy your night tonight.

But on this particular Ninth of Av throughout Israel's history, destruction, the temple was destroyed, war was launched. So I don't have it because I have to leave a lot of stuff out



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because I'm trying to keep these Prophecy Updates, you know, within — you know, I'm trying to shorten them to three hours long now.

[ Laughter ]

But there was one that I left out. They are actually threatening — Iran — to strike Israel on Monday. That would make it the Ninth of Av. We'll see.

According to this Jerusalem Post report, Italy's ITA Airways was also suspending flights to and from Tel Aviv due to ensuring the safety of its passengers and crews. Air India, Germany's Lufthansa Group, and United Airlines also suspended flights to Tel Aviv. Airlines this week have also been canceling and delaying flights to the Lebanese capital, Beirut — which is where I was born — was in Beirut — after a strike in the Golan Heights on Saturday.

And Israel has blamed the attack on Lebanon-based armed group Hezbollah, which denied involvement. This is the blame game. Israel struck. No, actually, not this time They have, but this time you guys did that, and you're blaming Israel because you want to start something.

By the way, speaking of the UK, you know what's going on over there right now, right? Been following this? The situation with the riots is becoming increasingly worse, seemingly with each passing day. The Washington Post published a report with the headline: “After a week of U.K. riots, thousands filled the streets to decry racism.” In it, they quote Tim Newburn, a criminologist, as saying, “These are very fast-moving events, popping up here and there, in cities across the country.”

And I think even the printed reports and the news reports don't even begin to describe what's happening over there. Thank God for online members who live there. I want to share with you an email from Alexander Brooke, who is one of our online members in the UK. Here's what he had to say. I love the way they talk, by the way. They sound so sophisticated with their accent. You know, I wish I could talk like that.

Anyway, he says, “Hey, up from Yorkshire in the UK.” I know that was a southern drawl. I completely butchered the whole British accent. But... “I've been listening for a few years now, and I've been blessed in abundance by your messages. I love to listen to them as I'm

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driving to and from work. It really makes the long drive *[That was a veiled — the long drives?]* *[Because it takes me a long time to get through your long Updates]*

It really makes the long drives interesting again. Hearing about the Prophecy Updates and recent teaching through Revelation and Daniel has really strengthened me through recent hard times here in the UK. I'm sure you've heard about the riots that happened since the Southport murders of those little girls in the dance class. *[So horrific]*

So while the nation mourns, it also burns to the ground. *[It's just being torched]* People are at each other's throats over previously menial differences, and it's getting really rather scary over here with talk about two-tiered policing and police escalation and cracking down on *[Get this]* free speech online. Talk about revving up, huh? We've been really encouraged by your pre-Trib rapture messages and wanted to say to you that despite all the recent heartache, they'll never steal our blessed hope. *[He stole my title to the Update]* (Chuckling) *[Which is totally fine]*

I thank God regularly for your ministry, as without it I would have been sucked into this political quagmire with everyone else. But now I keep my eyes on Jesus because of yours, Pastor Mac's, and Pastor Leitu's teachings. So I can't say thank you and praise God enough. Please give my best to your congregation. And while I know you'll never stop the Prophecy Updates, never stop! *[That's like a threat]* *[Did he just threaten me?]*

It keeps me sane through these end times to know that Christ will soon return. And it will all be behind us. And we have so much to look forward to. If I ever manage to save up enough to come on holiday to Kaneohe — small fortune from the UK. Ha-ha — then I'll be sure to drop in and say hello. Many thanks. And be blessed until we all meet at the rapture, Alexander.”

[ Applause ]

Yeah.

[ Applause ]

This actually ties into what I want to address shortly concerning the prophesied and almost complete controlled demolition of the world economy, which I believe we are witnessing in

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real time. And I've been talking about this for a long time. I happened upon this article that poses the question of: Global stock market slump; is the unrest in the UK being used to usher in the Great Financial Reset? Question mark.

Well, now look, I can't pass up a question. I think it's just only polite to, you know, provide an answer. What's the question? Okay, the question is: Is this unrest orchestrated, scripted, planned, pre-planned in order to usher in the Great Financial Reset? You know what that is, right? The Fourth Industrial Revolution, Klaus Schwab, transhumanism, Yuval Harari, out of Israel, of all places.

So they're asking the question. And I'm going to take one for the team here and answer the question. Okay? Because the question is, is this being used pre-planned to usher in the Great Financial Reset? Answer: Yes. It's time. And this is all pre-planned, pre-scripted.

You probably have heard me talk about the nature of Bible prophecy being intersecting. I'll use that word for lack of a better one. In other words, Bible prophecy is all interconnected intersected such that they're interconnected with one serving as the catalyst for the other. And here's how I get there. And try to stay with me on this.

The devastation in the aftermath of *Ezekiel 38* and *39* intersects with *Zechariah 12*, and that intersects with the prophecies from Jesus himself in *Matthew 24*, which intersects with *Daniel 9:27*, which intersects with *2 Thessalonians 2*, just to mention a few. Did you get that? You're going to be tested on that next week.

Okay, wait a minute, Pastor. With all due respect, I'm new to Bible prophecy. Praise the Lord. That's great. I'll just try to give you a simple explanation. Maybe it's an oversimplification. But all of those prophecies I just rattled off we're seeing them, specifically concerning the centrality of Israel, and they're all on the cusp of creating a prophetic domino effect.

In other words, once the button is pushed — can we just use that old metaphor? I know I need to update it. But once, you know, the button's pushed and that prophecy is fulfilled, well, then that's going to intersect and connect because it's wired with and connected to another prophecy that will also be fulfilled. Then when that is fulfilled, then that will fulfill another prophecy, which will fulfill another prophecy, which will fulfill another prophecy. By

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the way, in the middle of this, actually, hopefully before most of this, we're already out of here. That's Second Service.

You know when Jesus, in *Matthew 24*, said — after the disciples asked Him really a three-fold question — what will be the signs of the end of the age? When will this happen? What will be the signs of Your coming and of the end of the age? It's actually a three-fold question.

And Jesus goes on famously to describe in answering them there will be wars and rumors of wars. That's better translated threats of wars. So right now you've already got wars. I think there's something like over 100 wars already. Did you know that?

And pile on top of the wars that are already going on you've got the threats of wars. And then you're going to have nation rising against nation, ethnic group rising up against ethnic group, kingdom against kingdom. There's going to be famines and pestilence and earthquakes in different places that you don't normally have earthquakes. And He likens all of these things to birth pains, which we know come in greater frequency and intensity. Do you see the connection here?

In other words, the wars, the threats of wars will leave in their wake worldwide famines. Isn't that what always ensues after a war? The devastation, the destruction. Forget the economy, man. My heart was so broken. I still have family in the Middle East, and every once in a while, I'm able to get some communi-cay through. I better not say how.

But do you know that in Lebanon right — first of all, they're fleeing Lebanon. There's no electricity, there's no water. Their money is worthless. They're in danger constantly. There are Christians in Lebanon that have fled for their lives. Some didn't make it. And they've died a martyr's death at the hands of the Muslims there in my birthplace of Beirut, Lebanon. It's hell.

And Beirut used to be — when I was born in 1962, Beirut, Lebanon was called the Paris of the Middle East. Did you know that you could go snow skiing in the morning on the mountains and surfing in the ocean in the afternoon? Beautiful place. Not anymore. It's been completely devastated and destroyed. There's no economy.

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And this is what's happening. It's going to give rise to the Antichrist and his cashless economy. This is all — can I use the word catalyst? It's a catalyst. Again, thankfully — and man, that got a little heavy there for a second because I can — the way you're looking at me right now — if you could only see the way you're looking at me. I won't look at you that way. But you can, I guess, look at me that way.

Let me just encourage you here because I told you I was going to try to encourage you. We're out of here before this happens. Does that mean we're not going to see bad things happen or, you know, experience hardship? Excuse me? We already have. You know, when somebody takes you to task on being a pre-tribber — you just want to escape.

Yes, I do. And then they say, well, what about the martyrs? And they had to go through it. And blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. And I just say, man, listen, look what we've been through pre-rapture. Could things get worse pre-rapture? Absolutely. Do I want them to? No, I don't! Neither do you. Do you? That's what I thought. Glad nobody raised their hand.

On the authority of God's word, specifically *2 Thessalonians Chapter 2:3*, the Antichrist cannot be revealed until the church is raptured. And when the church is raptured, then the Antichrist comes on the scene because again, we're out of the way and so is the Restrainer. So they've got free reign.

And the Antichrist, who's alive already but has not been revealed as such is at the ready. And the only thing holding him back is you and me, the church, and the Restrainer. And once we're out of the way, go ahead! You can have this world. But not until we go home. Because this is not our final destination. Apparently, it's yours.

But see, now the Christian, the preserving agent's out of the way. The light has been removed, and now the darkness will have ensued. Scripture is replete with numerous and voluminous prophecies, especially concerning the world economy, which, by the way, ties into all of the prophecies. It's — it's all about the money.

You heard the expression, “money is what makes the world go round.” I hate that, by the way. It's not biblical, so you know. Don't be quoting that. But there's some truth to that. You've heard the other expression, “follow the money.”

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Well, there's merit to that too. I'm going to talk about that here in just a moment. But I want to again encourage you because I know a lot of people — and I get asked this often — Pastor, what happens after the rapture?

What if we have, you know, investments or we own real estate or, you know, what happens to that money? I mean, is there any legal or financial instrument that, you know, that, like life insurance, only it's called rapture insurance, so that you can — you know what I'm trying — no, for real. I've actually been talking to attorneys and financial planners about some kind of an instrument.

Nothing exists. And even if it did — listen, hear me — hear me out on this — even if it did, listen, it may not matter anyway. And by the way, isn't it God's money anyway? See, here's how I think as the pastor, which is my privilege to be, of this amazing church, I think about after the rapture, what's going to happen to this building?

You know what my greatest fear is? I'm just going to tell you — just straight up — it's gonna get turned into a mosque. I'm like, no, God! God, no! And He's just like, JD, what are you doing? Wait. You think it's your church? That's my church. I'll take care of it.

Yeah, but what about, you know, we — you know, what about the money? Isn't there — shouldn't we? Is there anything we can do, like delegate or, you know, kind of, you know, have some legal or financial instrument to have the moneys that we leave behind sent to Israel, to the Jewish people?

Can I ask you a question? It's God's money, right? Don't you think God will take care of that? I mean, here's what I did. I just — I hope it doesn't come off wrong. I hope you don't see me differently when I say this. I'm just like, God, after the rapture, You got a big problem. I don't know what You're going to do with this, Your church, Your church, and Your money. And God's like, no, I got it. I got it all figured out. Just get up here, and you'll see.

And by the way, you don't have to worry anymore because there's no more mortgages. There's no more, you know, electric bills, which are — is it just me, or have they — I'm sorry. I've got to get this off my chest. Heco: Have they quadrupled? I thought doubled. No, tripled. No, quadrupled. I — anyway, I shouldn't go off on that. But ho! Jesus is coming.

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And when your electricity bill is that high — and then you have to call them and ask them if they have financing just to pay — anyway.

Let's talk about the economy. On Monday, Mint published a report with this ominous headline of: “Global market crash: From Asian markets to crypto prices, U.S. recession fears jolt financial markets globally.” That's tame compared to some of the other reports that came out.

This one from BG News is even more chilling. Listen to this headline. “Global stocks PLUNGE over fears of 'U.S. economic collapse' [*Everything is collapsing*] as fund managers admit: [Get this] 'We didn't expect it to get this bad.'”

What? You're the financial experts. This caught you off guard? Well, I'm glad you're not my financial planner. We didn't expect it to get this bad. We didn't see it coming. This is like nothing we've ever seen before. And it's only just begun.

You know what really caught my attention was this 24/7 Wall Street Insights article titled, “Stock Market Collapse.” I mean, we... Okay, but the subtitle: “What is Different This Time.” I can just give you the answer. It's the title of my Prophecy Update. What's different this time? It's time. That's what's different this time.

Well, let me just share a few excerpts. “Unlike past market collapses, there were some warning signs that many ignored and numerous financial reports from the U.S. and other government agencies have proven to be inaccurate.” [*Surprise, surprise*] By 9:45 a.m. on Monday, August 5th [Listen to this] Almost \$2 trillion, with a T, dollars had been wiped out from U.S. markets. \$2 trillion? Do we even have that much? No, we don't. By the way, you know this debt clock that looks like a fan on high speed with the numbers? (Whizzing sound) That's a farce. What is it? I didn't — I don't look anymore. It just raises my blood pressure as high as the national debt. But you know, what is it now? What do they say it is? 23 trillion? Does anybody know? I mean, just leave it alone. It's such a high number that if you were to liquidate the entire world, you would not satisfy that, and by design because that's the plan.

It's a controlled demolition of the current financial system to usher in the Antichrist's financial system, which will be digital. I've been yelling at you for months about this, and I'm

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still yelling at you about it. Get your mind around these numbers and then listen to this. The Bank of Japan disas — Japan, the bastion of financial stability — oh, China too. China's in big trouble. Let me say it like this. China is in deep kimchi. Trust me.

“...the Bank of Japan disastrously miscalculated the aftereffects of its decision to raise interest rates in an attempt to support the Yen. While boasting [*Or boosting, pardon me*] the Yen's demand, this created a chain reaction that [*See that intersect?*] that crushed the [*Listen to this number*] \$20 trillion, with a T, yen carry trade and wiped-out trillions in leveraged trades, forcing liquidations that caused a -4,500-point Nikkei crash and contagion across the globe.”

I hate it when they use words like contagion. It's contagious. You know, like when you yawn. By the way, you know why? I don't have time. Don't you hate it when I do that? There's a physiological reason why when you yawn, you make somebody else yawn. I'm just going to let you just do your own research on that one. Still quoting.

Iran's... [*Listen to these*] [*Like they were caught off guard, by surprise, miscalculated, didn't see it coming*] [*This is what's different this time*] [*It's time*] “...Iran's launching of missiles [*Quoting*] at the Golan Heights has ignited fears of an all-out war breakout. [*That'll do it*] The concerns of escalation to a potential World War III are not unfounded.”

And by the way, we keep hearing World War III, World War III, World War III. (Stumbling over words) At one point the Bible says that, by the way, there will not be a World War IV. Spoiler alert, this World War III, that's the last battle. This is it. This time it's time.

But listen to what they say. “Lack of a coherent and consistent U.S. foreign policy has emboldened bad actors on both sides of the conflict, which has been festering for over a half century.”

Wait, that's 50 years. I'm 62 years old. This has been going on — I was 12 when this thing started? And then they say this, quote, “...Riots in the UK between British citizens and Islamic migrants have made Southport, Manchester, Liverpool, and other UK cities into war zones. A 17-year-old migrant ...raped and stabbed innocent British women was said to be the tipping point.”



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Okay. To the question of how all of this comports with Bible prophecy, I'll just summarize again. *Revelation 6* describes hyperinflation so bad that it takes an entire day's wages — this is in the tribulation, by the way, after the rapture. It'll take an entire day's wages just to buy barley. That's not even human food. That's feed for animals. You will work an entire day just to get barley, to try to make a loaf of bread.

Hyperinflation: *Revelation 13*. We talk about it all the time. It is a cashless, one-world economy that requires a biodigital verification system, without which no one can buy or sell. And this is worldwide, by the way.

This brings me to the final reason for today's urgent Prophecy Update concerning how this time it's time. But we're going to end the livestream at this time because it's time. Bye.

What followers are, and I'm going to call it what it is, three propaganda pieces because that's what they are from those who are basically funded by Big Pharma, brought to you by Pfizer. Brought to you by Pfizer. I encourage you, well, it would discourage you, but I would encourage you to be discouraged.

Go online, watch some of these videos. These guys have edited and compiled all of these videos, television programs: brought to you by Pfizer. Pfizer. Moderna. Pfizer. Pfizer is the biggie. They own the media. So of course the media is — because they're owned by Big Pharma. If they want to get their paycheck, they better do what the one who signs their paycheck tells them to do. What are they telling them to do? Spread the word. What's the word? Spread the fear.

I want to say this parenthetically because I'm going to show a slide here in a moment. If it's too graphic — I hope it's not — you just close your eyes. I'll give you a warning before I do. But if you have fear, I promise you it's not God. If you have fear, it's not God. If you watch something or hear something or read something, and it creates in you a spirit of fear, I promise you it's not God because He's not given you a spirit of fear.

So when I read an article or do these Prophecy Updates, and I share with you these propaganda pieces, they're all designed to do what? Spread fear. Fear! Fear! So you're standing in line wearing a mask. Your worship team is behind plexiglass. I didn't mean to go there. I don't have time to go there anyways, so why — so stop.

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Oh, I should give you a warning. Don't look. Okay, look. Too late. I mean, come on. And Breitbart, no less. The headline: World Health Organization considers declaring international monkeypox emergency.

Oh, no! Wait, I thought it was bird flu. I missed one. Let me go back here. I think this the Lord telling me to bring it in for a landing. Because we've been hearing the brainwashing on this for some time now, I decided to again, just kind of do a follow-up report on this, and sure enough, I didn't have to search very long before finding this from NPR.

Keep in mind that the Breitbart report I just quoted was from last Tuesday. That was the night of our prayer meeting. And I mention that because this NPR report was just two days ago on Friday. I mean, they're moving fast. I mean, you got to keep that wheel going. You know, strike while the iron is hot kind of thing.

Listen very carefully to this quote from just the first paragraph of this report. This is a quote. "The Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [*That's this — did you know that Africa has the CDC too?*] The Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has never done anything like this before."

Never seen anything like this before. Didn't see this coming. Unprecedented. What's different this time? Never done anything like this before. What are you going to do? "The agency is poised to declare a public health emergency of continental security as early as next week."

Wait. We got a busy week coming up. Because Iran is going to attack Israel. And then the African Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is going to issue this public health emergency next week. Are they synching their calendars? I'm not angry, by the way. One last one. It comes from The Independent out of the U.K., of all places, with yet another propaganda headline.

This one's a little more interesting, and I'll explain why in a second. Here's the headline. You see it. "COVID, [COVID] making worrying comeback amid summer surge and Olympics infections, W.H.O. official warns." No, pardon me, "warns." that's worse than "says." That's a warning. Who? The W.H.O. I'm not gonna do that. I'm sorry. The W.H.O. is warning. Summer Olympics? It's the summer.

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No, but I... no! Warning! Warning! Fear! Fear! Worrying! Come back! Worry about it! Be afraid of it! It's coming back in the summer! Because of the Olympics. Infections are on the rise. You see, that? Put it back up for the online members. I chose this. I'm going to show you another picture in a second. I debated on it but look at the chart.

Man, they are so good. They've got pros that do these charts. And none of us know how to read them. But that's why I'm going to show you this picture. You're ready. Wait for it.

Now that one, I get. I debated on whether or not to show it, but I decided to. And I tell you why. It reinforces the programing, the predictive programing, and the propaganda. When I show you a chart, you go, okay. This goes up like this. Okay. On the rise.

Oh no. Oh, wow. I show you a picture like that. What comes to mind? First of all, you want a Kleenex, is the first thing that comes to mind. This is all predictive programing. It's all propaganda. And what they're doing, and it's working. It's being met with smashing success to prepare once again for that which is being prepared for the masses yet again. They're getting you ready for what they have ready for you. Okay.

Okay. I'm almost done. Because we've addressed the prophetic significance of COVID-19 and the so-called vaccine, in depth. Can I — let me rephrase. Will you kindly allow me to just remind you of something? It wasn't that long ago that the entire world was in lockstep with lockdowns. Remember? Wearing masks, social distancing. Six feet. Not five. Not seven. Six feet apart. Leading to the announcement of Operation Warp Speed by none other than President Donald Trump, the self-proclaimed, quote, father of the vaccine.

Did you forget? Oh, they want you to. They want you to forget what they did. Do you know how many churches have been destroyed because of this? You know how many families have been split apart never to reunite because of this? You know how many pastors are out of the ministry because of this? You know how many? I could go on and on. I won't.

They're — Ah!!! Please don't be — I'll just quote the Apostle Paul. Don't be ignorant. Don't be so naive. Let not yourself be deceived. Let no man deceive you Keyword: Let. Don't let them do that to you. Let no man deceive you. This is a deception. And these are demon-possessed conspirators who are at the ready for the Final Solution after their successful trial run in 2020 and 2021.

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It was — I mean, it went beyond their wildest imaginations, that test run. They couldn't have dreamed that it would work as well as it did where you had — in Iran they're wearing the same brand of masks that they're wearing in Japan and all over the world.

Remember those eerie videos of, you know, ghost plants across once busy streets with traffic and people and bustling? All you hear now is the wind and the breeze. Where is everybody? We're on lockdown. It was like, surreal. You were living in a movie. That's exactly what they want. And it's coming back.

Well, so much for encouraging you. But you know what? This is encouraging, This should be very exciting. Because we know how it ends. And by the way, it ends very well for us, for those that are born-again of the Spirit of God and have come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

I mean, this time it's time. I'm ready to go. I just — you can have this world. Just give me Jesus, and Jesus, come quickly. I'm so out of here. I was so out of here so long ago. The only bitterness to that is those who don't know Jesus. But God.

I'm going to say this, and then I want to go through just real quickly, the simplicity of the Gospel and the ABCs of salvation. I would — I hope you don't tire of me saying this. I would rather terrify you and scare you into heaven than flatter you into hell.

And if what I've shared with you today terrifies you, it might be a good indication that you're not right with the Lord. And if you're not right with the Lord, you're not ready for the Lord. And I want to share with you how you can be. And it is so simple. It is childlike, simple. Jesus said unless you become like this little child, you cannot enter the kingdom of heaven. It is so — not childish, childlike, simple, the Gospel.

What's the Gospel? Good news. Your debt has been paid. You're free to go. That's what the word “gospel” means. What debt? What are you talking about? Oh, you didn't hear the bad news?

Okay, well, let's talk about the bad news first. You're a sinner. That's what the A is. You have to acknowledge, admit that you're a sinner; otherwise, why would you be interested in the Savior? *Romans 3:10* says, **“There is no one righteous, not even one.”**

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No one is good. You might be a good person. You'll never be good enough. How many times when you're sharing the Gospel somebody said, well, I'm a good person. You might be a good person. You're probably a gooder person than I am, but you'll never be good enough because there's no one that's good, save one.

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

And by the way, this is an archery term that you missed the mark. You fell short. You shot the arrow. You missed the bullseye.

Yeah, but dude, I got — I hit it nine out of ten times.

It doesn't matter. You break one of the commandments, you broken the whole law. You're guilty as charged. And now you're going to have to enter the sentencing phase.

What?

Yeah, there's a penalty.

What's the penalty?

It's the death penalty. *Romans 6:23*. “**The wages of sin is death.**” That's the bad news.

Once you understand the bad news, you're ready for the good news. And the badder the bad news is, the gooder the good news will be.

Well, this is really bad news. I've just been sentenced to death.

Well, now, here's the good news. “**The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**”

Once somebody comes to that place where they embrace that they are a sinner in need of the Savior, you can get them to the B. But not until. If you can't get them past that point, you're wasting your time. Go find somebody else. Go find somebody else.

This is central, the B. Once you acknowledge that you're a sinner, now you know your need for the Savior because the Holy Spirit takes you like the tutor, the schoolmaster by the hand, from the law that you broke and have been sentenced to death because of, to the Savior who fulfilled the law and goes to your death in your stead with His blood shed. And if you

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will **"...believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is Lord, and that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."**

Now this is — believe doesn't mean well, I believe in God. Well, congratulations. The demons believe in God and tremble. That's not what that means. What that means is you're putting your trust in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins. You're trusting in Jesus Christ, who paid in full for your sins. That's believing in Jesus Christ and that God raised Him from the dead.

Why is that important?

*Romans 10:9*, **"...if you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved."** If Jesus didn't rise again from the dead, we can all go home. We are most to be pitied. He rose from the dead on the third day, and good news! He's coming back again soon and soon. Very soon. One day.

That's the whole Gospel. Jesus Christ was crucified, buried, He rose again from the dead on the third day. And the first time the Apostle Paul writes the Gospel in his first letter to the Thessalonians, he — don't stop at the resurrection. He's coming back to rapture us.

Encourage one another with these words. That's the Gospel. He was crucified, buried, rose again from the dead, and He's coming back again to take us to that place that He prepared for us in His father's house.

The C, lastly, is for just call upon the name of the Lord or confess with your mouth. And is this not what Jesus said? That out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks. So if I believe in my heart that Jesus is Lord, and that God raised Him from the dead, then what's going to come out of my mouth? Jesus is Lord, and God raised Him from the dead. Because out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.

And this is what *Romans 10:9* also says, and what *Romans 10:13* says, which to me seals the deal. I love this verse. 40-plus years ago, 43 years ago now, it was this verse — I didn't even know this verse — but this is what sealed the deal for me. one night, on a cold January night on the mainland. **"All who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved."**

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I prayed myself to sleep. . I'm not proud of this. I'm actually quite ashamed of this. But maybe this is for somebody here today or watching online. I was a drug dealer. Drug addict. I was an alcoholic. I was addicted to everything and then some.

And I heard the Gospel simply presented. I went into my room, and I just — here was my prayer. I'm sorry for the illustration, but this is how I prayed (Slurring words) God, I don't want to go to hell. Because AC/DC just said I'm on I'm on the highway to hell. I want to go heaven.

And I fell asleep basically praying like that. I woke up the next day. I was a new creation in Christ. Old things had passed away. All things have become new.

[ Applause ]

Wait, wasn't there some terms of service you had to agree to or some forms you had to...?

No. I just called. And it's not — ALL who call.

Aren't you glad it doesn't say “most”? Because that's not all. Most who call. I call upon...

You're not the most, sorry. No. ALL. Even you.

And you know, we talk about, you know, I accepted the Lord. Well, praise the Lord. We're told all of heaven rejoices. You know what the greater miracle is? Not that you accepted the Lord. He accepted you.

Now, think about that. If I were the angels given charge concerning me, when I called upon the name of the Lord in 1982, if I were one of those angels, I would have said, “I wouldn't take that one. No, that's not a good deal, God. I would — I think — I wouldn't accept this one.”

Nah, you'll see what I'm going to do. Because I take the foolish things of this world that confound the wise and the weak to shame the strong. And that way, when they're going to look at this guy voted the most likely to not succeed. Putting it lightly. You know, those letters, you know, underneath your senior photo in the yearbook, all your accomplishments? You know, Letterman, you know, cheerleader, head cheerleader, ASG president. You know, all these clubs you were involved in, and all.

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Well, my picture? White. Has nothing underneath there. Nothing. I didn't do anything. I barely graduated. True story. You know what I wanted our senior motto to be? You know, they have the senior motto. You know, there's gold at the end of the rainbow, blah, blah, blah. You know what mine was? For real. I wanted — small class — I said, here's what ours should be. We've come out of our coma to receive our diploma.

[ Laughter ]

That's the truth. That's the truth. So what am I saying? If God can save somebody like me, He can save anyone. **“All who call upon Him.”**

Thanks for your patience. I'm done. Can I share the “But God Testimony”? It's a doozy, this one. It comes from Mrs. Shehzad Sunnie Bhatti who writes, “Dear Pastor JD, I want to thank you as an Arab Israeli. I came to university in the United States in the world of Christians. I met many Christian ministers who did not proclaim the truth.

I remember flying to America from Belgium. I had lost my family because I fell in love with Messiah Yeshua. I will try to fast-forward to the year of January 2021 and the Lord stressing pray Psalm 91 every day and fast.

My now deceased husband at the time was dying, and for years we argued. I stood my ground concerning the only one who knew us, the Arab/Israeli believers. I told him the only prophetic voice in the land was Pastor JD Farag. God raised you up, Pastor JD, like a Daniel. The Lord said, “in you was found an honorable spirit.”

Yes, there were many nights that only your words kept me alive from my husband [*Listen to this*] who desperately wanted me to die. Then as he laid on [*Talk about “But God”*] he's laying on his deathbed, and he confesses his sins and asks for forgiveness and comes to Christ. I told Him that he must understand that there was only one minister in the land who was speaking the truth.

I'm thankful from the moment I saw you. You became my pastor that day, so many years ago. I now translate your sermons into Urdu to tell our congregation in Karachi, Pakistan I remarried in 2023 to a pastor, and he always will ask how we should pray for you. God chose you. Never doubt this. Your words kept me alive from 2008 to 2021.



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God bless you. And I thank you. Sincerely yours, Mrs. Shehzad Sunnie Bhatti, Missionary to Pakistan and the United States of America.”

We could use more. Anyway. Kaponu, come on up. Stand up. Praise the Lord.

[ Applause ]

Thank you again for your patience. If Steve didn't go so long with that convicting word, I wouldn't have had to. Let's pray.

Father, thank You. Oh, God, You're so good. You're so good. You're so good. Oh, thank You so, so much, Lord. Lord, this is exciting. Because You told us what was going to happen before it happened, so that when it began to happen, believers would look up and lift up their heads, knowing their redemption draws nigh. Lord, were looking up. But You also said, You're going to tell us what's going to happen before it happens, so when it happens, nonbelievers will believe that You are I AM. The I AM.

And so, Lord, I pray for anyone who has never put their trust in You, believing in their heart, I pray that today would be the day of their salvation. And Lord, for those of us that have been walking with You for decades now, will You just encourage and strengthen the weary, battle-weary heart? And lastly, Jesus, Maranatha. Come quickly, Lord Jesus, we pray. In Jesus' name, Amen.