

Bible Prophecy Update – May 16, 2021

Why This? – Why Now?

JD Farag

Good morning, and welcome to our Sunday morning service. On Sunday mornings, we have two, the first of which is devoted to Bible prophecy. We do a weekly Bible Prophecy Update. Then the second service is our sermon, a verse-by-verse study through God's Word that will be livestreamed at 11:15 a.m. Hawaii time. We would encourage you to join us today. Lord willing, we will complete Philemon.

Today I want to talk about some of the reasons that God allows adversity in our lives, especially during those times when it just doesn't seem to make any sense. And so that will be the second service. For those of you that are here, you're welcome to stay as well. Now at least that you've got a parking spot, you don't want to lose that. We'd encourage you to do so.

Also, for those watching online, on YouTube, or on Facebook, we would actually encourage you to go directly to the website, JDFarag.org. There you can view and watch the uncensored entirety of the update as we only really have on YouTube and Facebook the introduction, which is typically about 20 minutes or so. And today, it will be about the same amount of time.

One more thing before we get started, and it is a praise report. Pictured here, oh! You've got it already? Well, I want to update you on really an answer to prayer, and at the same time, I want to thank all of you for praying because the antennas are no longer on our building! As only the Lord can, they have been removed, and now we are going to proceed with the repair on our roof. I just want to say thank you to all that have been praying. Continue to pray now because now the next project is repairing that roof, so we no longer have any leaks. So again, thank you for that.

All right, let's get to it. For today's update, I am going to need to ask you once again. I hope you don't tire of me asking you this. But I need for you to bear with me today as I do something just a little bit different and paint the prophetic canvass with a broad brush. This for a number of reasons, not the least of which is that time simply does not permit me to go into great detail by virtue of everything that's now happening.

In so doing, what I'm hoping to do is answer the question of: Why this and why now? Doubtless, you've been following the breaking news out of Israel with all of the Hamas rocket and missile attacks being fired from Gaza into Israel. There are no less than five concerns at this juncture.

The first [#1] of which is the sheer volume of Hamas attacks with seemingly no end in sight.

The second [#2], and perhaps more concerning, is the potential for Iran-backed Hezbollah from the north in Lebanon, my birthplace, joining in with what's already been an escalation.

The third [#3], this current escalation is leading those who are otherwise very cautious when it comes to this and their commentary on this. They're usually erring on the side of an abundance of caution and try to be the voice of reason, yeah, this is another flareup, and there will, hopefully, Lord willing, pray that there's a cease-fire. Well, they're not saying that. Normally the conservative voices are suggesting now, instead, that Israel may very well be on the brink of all-out war.

The fourth [#4], and equally concerning, is that this comes at a time when Israel, subsequent to a failure for the fourth time, was unable to elect a Prime Minister and form a government. Truth be made known, Israel does not have a functioning government at this time.

The fifth [#5], and again, possibly equally concerning, the US is sending conflicting messages concerning Israel, and even worse is rumored to be sending \$90 billion, with a "B," to Iran, the chief enemy of Israel.

Also, here in the US, there is now a growing concern about what we're told it was a cyber-attack on America's largest fuel pipeline. The result has been the all too familiar images that riddle our news feeds of these long lines of cars, only this time, instead of being in line for food, they're in line for fuel. Add to this the manufactured crisis, pun intended, fueling the fear of an ensuing shortage -

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there's no shortage. But this fear of an ensuing shortage of not just gas, but goods, supplies, building supplies, and even food. It is a manufactured crisis.

If this weren't bad enough, we still have what I'll call at least for now "the global crisis," which, by the way, isn't going away, nor is life ever going back to normal. Sadly, those coerced, even forced to acquiesce in order to keep their job and/or government benefits, do so thinking they're going to get their lives back. Then to add insult to injury, again pun intended, not only will they never get their lives back. Instead, their lives will never be the same again.

Now right about now, I can tell by the way you're looking at me. Wow, Pastor, that is quite a bleak picture you are painting on the aforementioned prophetic canvass. But would you agree that it does beg the question of why this and why now? You'll forgive me for what may seem like an oversimplification, but the answer to why this? Is this is how it ends. And the answer to why now? Is this is when it ends. Specifically for Christians, this ends in the rapture. And for those who are not? It ends in the Antichrist's revelation and the seven-year tribulation in that order.

Please know that I'm keenly aware of how this can foster despair. However, if that's what it takes to get people to Jesus, so be it. It seems that, and I'm just going to share from my heart. Every week the updates get more and more difficult. For me, I'm thinking about myself, not you. They're getting very hard if I could be so candid with you. The Lord is so faithful, He's so good, and as only He can and is always so faithful to, He just settles my heart, and calms me, and ministers to me, and says to me, just get them to Me. That is all you got to do. And don't take too long. Just get them to Me as quickly as you can. That just kind of took the edge off, took the pressure off.

So I stand before you today, as is my privilege every week to do, and I just have a very simple message for you: Get to Jesus. And don't wait. Get to Jesus. Jesus and His soon return to rapture us as His bride is not only our blessed hope, it is our only hope! And thankfully, here's the thing - we still have time. It's a very short window of time and opportunity, but we still have some time, as little and as short as that time is, to seize the moment and reach the lost for Jesus now! I think about in Israel, the Jewish people: They need Jesus. I think about the Arab people, my people: They need Jesus. Jesus is our only hope.

When the Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus, it's recorded in Ephesians Chapter 5. I want to read verses 15-16. He speaks to this; listen to this. He says, "Be very careful, then, how you live, not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity..." Why? "Because the days are evil." I don't know if there is another verse as fitting as this for us today. We are living in a day where evil is seemingly waxing worse and worse, not only by the day but seemingly with each passing hour.

It is incumbent upon us as God's people in these last moments of world history to seize every opportunity, make the most of every opportunity, and be very careful how it is that we conduct our lives circumspect in every regard. Circumspect, carrying with it the idea, circular: being aware of everything that is happening. I'm sorry, I'm turning my back on you. This is my TV side, by the way, right here. Sorry. But it's being aware of everything that is happening around you and being very careful then, living in wisdom, wisely, not unwisely or foolishly.

When he writes to the Romans, this is a well-known verse in chapter 13:11-12. Paul says, "And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber..." And here's why "because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over. The day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light."

Listen to what Jesus said; it's recorded in John 8:12. He said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." Would you agree with me that the world is getting darker by the moment? But for those of us who know Jesus, we will never walk in

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darkness regardless of how dark the world is. Why? Because we have the light of life. Who is the light of life? Jesus!

Psalm 119:105, I love this verse, this Psalm, great Psalm. "Thy word, O Lord, is a light to my path, a lamp to my feet." To light the way in this world that is getting darker with each passing moment. Jesus is the light.

I would humbly submit, and again, I'm asking you if you'll just bear with me. I truly believe with all my heart that God is even now judging this dark world. And He's doing so, so people will let go of the world, especially His people, and follow Jesus as the light of the world.

Now, stay with me because we have a problem. The problem is that there are those who are saying that there is going to be this great revival. This great awakening! The result is that many, and we're talking about Christians, are still holding out hope in this world, which has the effect of delaying, even dismantling, any urgency concerning the Lord's soon return. Because if that's true (and it is not!) that there's coming this great revival before Jesus can come back, then that means that Jesus cannot come back - until there's a great revival. By the way, you guys, today, it was magnificent as you were worshiping, "Turn your eyes upon Jesus," and when you do, the things of earth grow strangely dim.

But wait a minute! If there's going to be a revival, then that means that Jesus isn't coming because there has to be this first; you fill in the blank. Now, all of a sudden, I'm not turning my eyes upon Jesus. I'm not looking up and lifting up my head, knowing that my redemption draws nigh, seeing all of these things begin to come to pass because this has to happen first. You have just delayed my Master's coming. Don't be doing that. You probably already know where I am going with this, so I'll just get to this.

Matthew 24, to me, is one of the most astonishing of the parables that Jesus ever taught. It is at the end of Matthew 24. I will begin reading in verse 45. "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master when he comes, will find so doing. Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods. But [oh, boy], if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming, [no hurry, no worry] and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

Do you know what the difference between these two servants was? The faithful servant was found faithful when his master returned because he lived his life believing that his master could return at any time. Conversely, the evil servant, by contrast, did not live his life in such a way because he did not believe that his master was going to come as soon as he did. So, he's got plenty of time. Party on! Eat, drink, be merry, no worry, no hurry. Then when the master returns, he is completely caught off guard—totally not expecting his master to return as soon as he did.

I'm going to get right to the point. Some of you are saying to yourself, thank you, Pastor. It's about time. Just get to the point here. Some of you are probably asking, "Do you even have a point?" I absolutely have a point, yes. But in order to get to the point, we're going to end the Livestream now on YouTube and Facebook and redirect you, if you're not already there, to the website, JDFarag.org.

For over a year now, I've basically been saying the same thing over and over again, week-in and week-out. What I have been saying for over a year now, week-in and week-out is: This is how it ends. This is the end. There are two reasons that I've been so bold in this regard.

The first is because of the detailed prophecies found in the Bible. Again, I have to, in the interest of time, paint this prophetic canvass with a broad brush starting with 2 Thessalonians 2:3. This

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prophecy, very detailed, tells us the tribulation cannot begin, nor the Antichrist be revealed until the church of Jesus Christ is raptured. 2 Thessalonians 2:3. Isaiah 17:1...

Oh, by the way, on Thursday nights, do you know what book we're in? Isaiah. Do you know what chapter we finished last? Chapter 16. Do you know what comes after 16? I know, deeply profound, 17. This week on Thursday, 7:00, 7:30, livestreamed. We're going to be in chapter 17 of Isaiah, where we find a prophecy, I believe another dual prophecy, concerning Damascus, Syria.

In verse 1 of Isaiah 17, we are told that Damascus, Syria, will be completely destroyed, so much so that it becomes an uninhabitable heap of rubble. The city is uninhabitable. So, we are going to see this on Thursday night, and by the way, it does take and taxes a heavy toll on Israel when it happens, especially northern Israel there in the Golan.

Ezekiel 38; we talk about this often. It tells us that an alliance led by Russia, Iran, and Turkey will invade Israel from Syria, which is why many believe, present company included, that it will happen in concert with, even simultaneously with the Isaiah 17:1 prophecy. When Damascus is destroyed, then they invade Israel. Now many believe that this is after the rapture. I sure hope so. I sure hope so.

But there's a very interesting detail, again, one for which we've talked about often, and it is found in verse 13 of Ezekiel 38. Because it says by their ancient name that the modern-day country of Saudi Arabia and the area around Saudi Arabia, namely the Gulf States, all of whom have signed the Abraham Accords and now have a good foreign relationship and economic relationship with Israel. When this invasion takes place, according to Ezekiel 38, they will only protest, and that's why.

Daniel 9:27 is another very detailed prophecy. It tells us that the Antichrist will confirm a seven-year peace covenant and then commit an abomination that causes desolation at the 3.5-year mark, and he'll do so in the newly rebuilt Jewish temple.

2 Thessalonians 2:4 tells us that when the Antichrist does this, he will exalt himself in the rebuilt temple showing himself that he is God and will demand to be worshiped. It will be at this point that the Jews will realize that he is not their Messiah, and they will flee.

As Jesus prophesied and said to them recorded in Matthew 24, to this place that God has prepared for them for the last 3.5 years of the seven-year tribulation where He will protect them and preserve them from the Antichrist who will seek to destroy them. That's in Matthew 24.

It's also in Revelation Chapter 12. Revelation 13:16-18 again, a prophecy, especially now with everything that's happening. It's very familiar to most, if not all of you. It's a prophecy that tells us that he will make everyone take this mark. It will have to be a sophisticated technology, a biometric technology that many believe, again, present company included, that it will be a pharmaceutical (i.e., a vaccine), that will track and trace and identify everyone everywhere.

So, when you leave the house, they know. Do you want to go to the store? Do you want to buy? Well, we have to make sure that when you're scanned, that you have a high enough social credit score in order to do so. And if you don't, you can't. This is exactly why what's happening is happening. It's also why what's happening now is happening now.

This brings me to the second reason that I'm unwavering in my boldness that this is both how it ends and when it ends. Simply put... And I want you to think this through with me. There is no plausible scenario in which everything works out and goes away, and the world just goes back to business as usual on a global scale.

If you kindly allow me to, I'd like to explain how I get there, and again, I'm going to paint this with a broad brush. More specifically, this scenario of what would it look like if: You're wrong, Pastor JD, and this is not the end. This is not the way it ends, and this is not when it ends.

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First [#1], the escalation in the Middle East, specifically against Israel, would come to an abrupt stop. We're not talking cease-fire. Come on, how many cease-fires... they mean nothing. That's not what I'm talking about. You would have to witness, eye witness, firsthand, a complete and abrupt stop to the escalation in the Middle East so much so that everyone would just go back home and have some hummus. I had to lighten it up a little bit.

Second [#2], there would be no continued efforts to bring about a peace agreement, which has already been set in motion, which means that everything goes back to the status quo.

Third [#3], all plans for the rebuilding of the Jewish temple... Again, already in motion, the wheel is already in motion... It would have to be shelved, and the Jews would just go back to the way it's been.

Fourth [#4], the vaccine will stop killing people. It's killing people. And it will start saving people from a virus so deadly you have to be tested to even know if you have it. That would have to happen.

Fifth [#5], all restrictions would have to be lifted. Masks, throw them away. I think you should do them anyway. Social distancing, no longer required. Vaccines, no worries, forget the vaccine. How about living in fear of everyone around me. Oh, you don't have to live in fear anymore. Everything's okay now.

How are we doing on the absurdity factor here? Also, Biden would need to delete this May 13th tweet in which he says, quote, "The rule is now simple: get vaccinated or wear a mask until you do. The choice is yours." Really? Wait a minute. Let me see if I got this right.

Again, I'm asking you to bear with me. You're doing good so far. If you're not, we will bow our heads, close our eyes, you can slip out, and we will forgive you. So now, if I wear a mask, that means I haven't been vaccinated. In other words, and again, I've been talking about this for the better part of a year... That initially, the mask will be seen as compliance. But the time is coming when the mask will no longer be seen as compliance. It will be seen as defiance.

Let's just take it a step further, if you don't mind. So, we're going to go to the store. Or we are going to go out to dinner. We are not going to get vaccinated. So, we show up at the restaurant; we give them our names. They're looking at us, and they're like, "Okay, where is your verification of vaccination?" "Oh, I haven't been vaccinated." "Okay, put your mask on. We'll call you when your table is ready." As they give you "stink eye." So, you're sitting there, everybody else that has been vaccinated waiting for their table staring at you with your mask. "You haven't been vaccinated!" [Making a cross symbol] Am I right? Okay, now your table is ready. You are going to go to your table. The people already seated, enjoying their meal that have been vaccinated, are watching you walk in with a mask. And you sit down next to them. They call for the server, "Excuse me, can we move to another table?"

In our scenario, let's just say again, for the purpose of discussion, that I am so wrong. I am as wrong as the day is long. Sometimes, and believe you me, and the Lord knows my heart, I almost want to be wrong because that means we have more time to get more people to Jesus. But I don't think I'm wrong.

But in this scenario, as absurd as it is, assuming that I am wrong, all of this has to go away. All of this has to go away. No more pressure to be vaccinated. No more classification between those who have not been vaccinated and those who have been vaccinated. Do you know that mask that you continue to wear because you are a "refusnik" who refuses to be vaccinated? It can be likened unto the yellow star worn by the Jews. There's more; hang in there.

Number 6 [#6], the Great Reset; we've been talking about this, and with it, the Fourth Industrial Revolution merging man with AI machine will have to be canceled until further notice.

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Seventh [#7], the global economy rebounds. People go back to work and no longer have to depend on government stimulus checks, many of which are actually more than what they were paid when they worked. Are we okay? Alright.

Number 8 [#8], lastly, schools re-open, churches re-open, businesses re-open, and everyone goes on to live happily ever after! The end! Happy days are here again, [singing] Thank you for laughing. If you're anything like me, and I suspect that you are, if you don't laugh, you'll cry.

May I draw your attention to Luke's Gospel, the 12th chapter? I want to read verses 54 through 56. "He [speaking of Jesus] said to the crowd, 'When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, 'It's going to rain, ' and it does. And [verse 55] when the south wind blows, you say, 'It's going to be hot, ' and it is. Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don't know how to interpret this present time?'"

Stop right there. To me, this is the question that every single one of us needs to be asking ourselves. Do we know how to interpret the signs of these times? I know that I...

Again, just bear with me, please. I have never fancied myself as being intelligent or smart. You know that I jokingly say I'm not the sharpest knife in the kitchen drawer. That is not really hyperbole. That's actually true. I'm not proud of this. I barely graduated high school. I actually got suspended, almost expelled. I rebelled. My dad was a teacher. I was a teacher's kid. This is before I was saved, so don't look at me all spiritual and judgmental.

In fact, I did a lot of damage to my brain because of my life before Christ because of my lifestyle. And when I came to Christ, I had to get the Good News Bible. I think later that it would be called The Living Bible because it was the limited vocabulary. When I read the Bible the first time all the way through, I had to read the Good News Bible in its limited vocabulary. Again, this is not hyperbole. Even that was a stretch for me with that limited vocabulary. That is how much damage I had done. Now certainly, and praise the Lord, He has restored the years that the locusts have eaten.

But to this day, and I don't want to talk just about myself, but I'm just using this as an example and an illustration. To this day, I still suffer the consequences of my life before Christ. Neurologically, physiologically, I'm dealing with issues because of that. Surely, I have been forgiven; I'm saved. But there are consequences - far-reaching consequences, and one of those consequences is I have a very difficult time academically. This is why I would never even consider... nothing wrong with this... Going to college or furthering my education. When people ask me, and they say, hey, what Bible College did you go to? I'm sorry, I just laugh like I am right now. Bible College? I don't think I would've gotten accepted into a Bible college.

I say that to share this, and again, this is not hyperbole. If I can understand it, you can understand it. Please, please, please never look at me and think of me as being, man, that dude is really on top of it. He really knows his stuff. If you only knew. [Woody Woodpecker singing] It's Woody Woodpecker, I know. Thank you for telling me that. I had a flashback; I'm back. And I'm almost done, believe it or not.

There is hope. But it is what Paul wrote to the Corinthians that He chooses the foolish things of this world to confound the wise. Why? So only He can take the credit for it and receive the glory for it. Even if I wanted to, if I tried, it would be laughable to try to take the credit. This is, and I've shared this before, and this will be the last thing.

By the way, today for those of you who are going to be with us for Philemon, Paul says to Philemon, oh, one more thing. One last thing; that's where I got it. That's my story and I'm sticking with it. One last thing, Philemon. This will be one of the one last things. When someone says to me, wow, God really spoke to me. If God could speak through someone like you, then that means there's hope for

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me. If God could use a donkey, like you, and I say that word affectionately, so too can He use a donkey, like me.

See, He gets all the glory. See, I know over the years God has made it abundantly clear, painfully clear when need be, that you're going to hear a different sermon than the one I preached. I thank You so much for that, Lord. Because the Holy Spirit takes... I'm just the mouthpiece. He takes the Word, and He fine-tunes it to your heart because He sees you and knows your heart. I don't. I only look at the outward appearance.

Oh, by the way, you all look marvelous today - outwardly. Now, as far as your heart goes, I can't see that and have no idea, but God does. He knows what that need of your heart is and what you brought to church today, needing to hear a word fitly spoken to encourage your heart, to strengthen your heart. See, God knows that, and the Holy Spirit takes the Word that doesn't return void, and He fine-tunes it to that exact need. I love it when somebody says something to me to the effect of "Man, God really spoke to me."

I made the fatal mistake... I never do this anymore, by the way, but I made this mistake one time. I wanted to know what part of the sermon was such a blessing to them. Oh, boy, did I get spanked, and rightfully so. This precious sister said to me, "It wasn't anything you said." It is kind of like the Holy Spirit going, "Really! Really? You thought it was you?"

It's a very long way to say a very simple truth, and that is if I can interpret the signs of the times... I am no expert. I am not smarter than you, better than you. If I can interpret these signs, so can you. So can you. If we do, if you do, then you're going to come to the conclusion that I've come to. And that conclusion is: This is it; The end. This is how it ends. This is the way it ends. And oh, by the way, this is when it ends. Because if this is not when it ends? I don't know what is! Because in order to get there and have this not be the end, do you want to go back over all of those scenarios? Some of you are saying, please, Pastor JD, don't put us through that again. I won't! And that is just a sampling of all of the things that would have to happen in order for this to not be the end.

You take everything, and we have only covered a few of those things. You put them all together, and here's the word: Simultaneously. Just the statistical odds have to be insurmountable, off the charts, incalculable, unfathomable to have exactly what we're told in God's Word would happen at the time of the end, happen exactly as He said it would - simultaneously. Simultaneously! I don't know how you can come to any other conclusion. He's not delaying His coming. He's coming now. He's coming now. There is no more time. Let me catch my breath.

Again, the Lord knows my heart when I say this. Every update, it is like, Lord, I am going to preach my heart out like it is my last. Because it could be. It could be. You know that we have been doing these weekly Prophecy Updates for going on 16 years now, every week? If you would have come to me, even five years ago, and said that I'd be talking about what I'm talking about today, I would have responded like Sarah responded to Abraham when he said we're going to have... No, more it was more like this... "Honey, we're going to have a son." Disbelief. Laughable disbelief.

This is why we do the updates. This is why we end with the Gospel. This is why we share the simple ABCs of Salvation, which is just a childlike, simple explanation of salvation.

What's the Gospel? The Gospel means good news. The Apostle Paul writing to the Corinthians in Chapter 15 in the first four verses, says the Gospel is that Jesus came and He died, He was crucified for you, in your place, by the way. He was buried in your place, by the way, and He rose again and defeated death on the third day in your place, by the way. And He's is coming back one day to take you to His place, by the way. That's the good news. That is the Gospel.

What are the ABCs? Very simply, the A is for admit or acknowledge that you are a sinner; that you need the Savior. Romans 3:10 says, "There is no one righteous, not even one." You might think you're

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a good person, and you may be a good person, but you can never be good enough. And Romans 3:23 tells us why. It is because "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 6:23 is interesting because it announces, for lack of a better way of saying it, the bad news first and then offers the good news. What's the bad news? Well, the bad news is that the wages of sin is death. In a sense, you have been sentenced to death. You have the death penalty because of sin. That is the bad news.

Here's the good news. The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Now you'll forgive the simplicity with which I illustrate this again, but it is childlike simple. What's a gift? Something that's given; something I don't pay for. Someone had to pay for it. See, if I paid for it, it's no longer a gift. It's a purchase. Oh, it is a gift that is given to me if I would but receive it. But He paid for it. We are not our own but purchased with a price. It cost Him everything, His life. His blood shed in our stead to purchase us and for us this gift He offers to us of eternal life. That's the good news.

The B is for believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is Lord. Romans 10:9-10 says, "If you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved." I emphasized that for a reason. It's not you might; you could; you should. There's a good chance; the jury's out, we will see, the verdict is not in. No, you will. Why is it so definite? Why is there is no still jury deliberating on it? Why is the verdict in? Because Jesus said, "It is finished." Period, not comma.

I'm not angry. Maybe I am a little bit. It is not, it is finished if... It is finished, but... Or this one: It is finished, however... That is riddled with legalism. The implication being there is something I still need to do. No, I don't have to do anything! He did it all. He paid it all. It is finished! Halas! In Arabic. I love that word because you spit on people when you speak. Actually, in the original language of the Aramaic and Hebrew and my native tongue of Arabic, it's not three words, "It is finished," it's one word. It is much more convenient, and I love the power of that word. Halas! Period. It's done! Finito! I'm going to leave that one right there and move on.

The C. Probably as good of a time as any to apologize sincerely. I know that people tell me to tone my humor down. If you only knew... I try. I already do. That's toned down, so I don't know. So just pray for me, I guess, but I love to laugh. It's so medicinal. Plus, God has a sense of humor, doesn't He? If you doubt that, just look at yourself in the mirror, and you'll realize... Okay, come back.

The C is for call upon the name of the Lord. Or as Romans 10:9-10 also says, confess with your mouth. "If you confess with your mouth 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified. And it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." And lastly, Romans 10:13 says that "All who call upon the name of the Lord [here's that word, again] will be saved."

We have been sharing these ABCs of Salvation for, I think, three-plus years now. And we continue to receive testimonies from all over the world. We were so privileged to have JB on Thursday night and last Sunday to share. Boy, if you weren't here or didn't watch online Thursday night, I would really encourage you to do so. We had a lot of fun, and the last time I checked, there are no restrictions on fun. We had a lot of fun and just powerful testimony about the simplicity of the Gospel. I want to end with another one today.

This online member writes, "Dear Pastor JD, Greetings from Cape Town, South Africa! We just have to share this testimony with you, and we pray that this will serve as a witness and inspiration to you and our brothers and sisters in Christ! I also want to thank you and your congregation for welcoming us from all over the world as brothers and sisters into your church and as a family in Christ. We were looking for an opportunity to share the ABCs of Salvation with others, but billboards are locally not an easy option for advertising due to tight environmental legislation and restrictions.

Bible Prophecy Update – May 16, 2021

Why This? – Why Now?

JD Farag

As an alternative, I have decided to use the ABCs of Salvation as a WhatsApp profile pic to see if this will provide an opportunity to share the Gospel. But to no avail - what a disappointment - But God! I then got a call from a friend who saw the ABC profile pic on WhatsApp and inquired about my involvement with a small ABC Child Care Center about 50 km from Cape Town with apparently a similar logo.

At first, I didn't know what she was talking about, but then I realized that God was at work, and I sensed Him saying, "You wanted an opportunity - here it is!" So, I got in my car, drove to the little town of Klipmuts, and eventually found the little school with 33 little children at the back of a small house down some small side street. Not knowing how the owner would respond, I asked her if she knew what the name of her little school really means, and I shared the ABCs of Salvation with her right there on the pavement.

Needless to say, we were invited to the little school. We had t-shirts printed with the ABCs of Salvation for all the kids and all the staff. And this morning, we had the opportunity to share the Gospel with all of them. By the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, we had the heavenly experience of praying the prayer of salvation over all of them. We serve an All-Mighty God! Yes! Praise the Lord!

I am quite sure there must be more schools and day-care facilities with the name ABC around the world and challenge other believers to find them and to share the ABCs of Salvation with the staff and children of those schools! We will continue to pray for you, your congregation, and all believers around the world to stand strong in their faith and to spread the light of Jesus Christ during these challenging times. Your brother in Christ, Gideon Roos, Cape Town, South Africa. Praise the Lord!

Why don't you stand, and we'll have the worship team come up? I hope and pray that today as one said, the Spirit of God through the Word of God ministered to the people of God, as only God can. I pray that you are encouraged. I pray that you are strengthened. This word has been totally hijacked by the world, and I know an Arab shouldn't use the word hijacked, but motivated. I pray and hope that there's a newly found motivation and urgency perhaps better said with the little time that we have left before that trumpet sounds to get Jesus to as many people as you can and get as many people as you can to Jesus. That's what it's all about, in Jesus' name.

Let's pray. Father in Heaven, thank You. Thank You, Lord, for the Gospel, for the simplicity. Thank you for the gift of eternal life, paid for in full. Thank You that all who call upon Your name, believing in their hearts, confessing their sins will be saved. Lord, thank You for salvation.

Thank You for that soon and very soon, sooner, I believe, than any of us, myself included, can possibly imagine. You're coming back to take us to that place. You prepared us in Your Father's house. That if it were not so, You would have told us. But You went to prepare this place for us so that where You are, we may be also. Lord, come quickly, in Jesus' name. Amen.