



**Becoming Issachar
Prophecy Update
Lawlessness
Matthew 24:4-14**

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Here is the question, is what is now taking place in churches in our nation with protestors showing up outside the church as they did in Riverside CA at Harvest Church Wednesday night for the kickoff night of Make Heaven Crowded Revival tour now the norm?



What about the events of January 18, 2026 in St Paul Minnesota where protestors actually entered a church and intentionally broke the multiple Federal laws as they trespassed and disrupted worship. Laws the state of Minnesota, per their Attorney General, is apparently not interested in even upholding since no police ever showed up, unlike in Riverside CA.

I would say, based on the words of Jesus and Paul, yes. If you were to look at this solely through the eyes of the world, then you might find agreement with what some have said about what is taking place. Albert Mohler, president of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, characterized the event as a significant and dangerous development.

"It's the transgression of yet another boundary. You had leftist protestors who actually invaded an evangelical church at worship, and that is without precedent," he told Fox News Digital. The disruption has sparked widespread concern among clergy nationwide, Mohler said. He warned that the disruption was "intended to have a chilling effect."

"Those who invaded that church this past Sunday intended to send a signal, you could be next. And the intimidation tactic here is just absolutely transparent," he said. (Parks 2026)

Matthew 24:4–14

"And Jesus answered them, "See that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are but the beginning of the birth pains. Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. **And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.** But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." (ESV)

What Jesus is discussing here with His disciples are signs of His second coming, and we are now seeing those signs converging and taking place everywhere. This is a new experience for the church in this nation, but this has been what has been going on now outside our nation for sometime now.

Paul also talked about lawlessness being restrained until we are all removed from this planet in the rapture. If what we are seeing is restrained, I am glad we will not be here when the restrainer, the Holy Spirit, is removed. Yes, there are those who are saying there is no rapture and this is the beginning of the seal judgments. Nope. That is one of the reasons Paul wrote a second letter to the church in Thessalonica.

2 Thessalonians 2:3–12

"No one is to deceive you in any way! For it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? And you know what restrains him now, so that he will be revealed in his time. **For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is removed. Then that lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will eliminate with the breath of His mouth** and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not accept the love of the truth so as to be saved. For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness." (NASB 2020)



An increase in lawlessness is to be expected in these last days.

According to the Family Research Council, 383 churches endured a combined total of 415 hostile incidents in 2024, including vandalism, arson, armed aggression, and service disruptions. Armed incidents more than doubled from 12 in 2023 to 28 in 2024. (Carter 2026)

Do we need to be aware of the protections provided to us by the state? Yes, we do. Here in Florida, there is Florida Statute 871.01.

871.01 Disturbing schools and religious and other assemblies.—

(1)(a) Whoever willfully and maliciously interrupts or disturbs any school or any assembly of people met for the worship of God, any assembly of people met for the purpose of acknowledging the death of an individual, or for any other lawful purpose commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(b) If a person commits a violation of paragraph (a) and in doing so makes a credible threat, as that term is defined in s. 784.048(1), he or she commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084. (State of Florida 2025)

But as followers of Jesus Christ here in these last days, Satan is doing all he can do with those who are busy following him, to destroy the ministry of the church. For those who are involved in the Laodicean Church, yes, I do expect the actions we are seeing in Minnesota and California would indeed have a chilling effect. For me as a follower of Jesus, because we know the time we live in and who we are following, not so much.

Paul asked Timothy to pray for government and for those who are in it.

1 Timothy 2:1–4

“First of all, then, I urge that requests, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made in behalf of all people, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” (NASB 2020)

Why do we pray for those in authority? Simple. So, we may lead a tranquil and quiet life and have the continuing opportunity to reach others for Jesus Christ.

Unlike St Paul, where the police were no shows, in Riverside CA, they did indeed keep the few protestors who were there off the campus and relegated to public property. And inside, no mention at all. “So the reason we’re here tonight is we want to encourage you in your faith,” Greg Laurie added. “We want to pray for a revival, a spiritual awakening in America. And we want to encourage you all who are Christians to preach the gospel. And we want to see you, who are not believers yet, believe in Jesus.” (OC Register 2026)

Let’s look at these incidents in the light of God’s word. The gospel has now been published in the Orange County Register and thanks to the Pastor in St. Paul, we also know the duty of the Pastor is to care for the flock. God has used this to reach this nation, once again, with news of what Jesus Christ did for us on the cross. “Cities Church Pastor Jonathan Parnell did that on Sunday, when confronted by journalist Don Lemon. “We’re here to worship Jesus because that’s the hope of these cities,” Parnell told him. “That’s the hope of the world.”” (Martin 2026)

For those who disrupted the church service last Sunday, the arrests have already begun. “Federal authorities have arrested two, (now three and still going up) anti-ICE agitators after a mob stormed a



church service in St. Paul, Minnesota, Attorney General Pam Bondi announced Thursday.” (Hagstrom 2026)

Psalm 31:23–24

“Love the LORD, all you godly ones! For the LORD protects those who are loyal to him, but he harshly punishes the arrogant. So be strong and courageous, all you who put your hope in the LORD!” (NLT)

As we see lawlessness increase, remember this, Jesus said it would, and David reminds us that God protects those who belong to Him and those who are arrogant, meaning those who are busy doing the activities of lawlessness, He will indeed “harshly punish.” One more reason why we pray for them and share Christ with them.

One of the very earliest teachings we have on Matthew 24 and a discussion of this is in the Didache. This is considered teaching, but not scripture. Didache 16:3 & 4 says the following.

For in the last days the false prophets and corrupters will abound, and the sheep will be turned into wolves, and love will be turned into hate. (4) For as lawlessness increases, they will hate and persecute and betray one another. (Holmes 1999, 269)

Per Kurt Niederwimmer, “the reference to sheep that are transformed into wolves can, but need not, mean the false teachers. More probable is another interpretation: “former believers will become enemies.” The continuation seems to describe the same process in different words. The love that had been at work in the communities is suddenly transformed into hatred—a characteristic moment within the perversions of the last days. The parallel in Matt 24:12 has a somewhat different meaning.

Verse 4a gives a reason for the events in the communities: the increase of lawlessness cf. Matt 24:12. Brothers and sisters become enemies and the consequence, in the situation in which Christians are placed within society (namely, that of constant insecurity that can at any moment turn into persecution), is that one sister or brother persecutes and betrays another. Παραδώσουσι means that apostate Christians are denouncing their former fellow believers to the authorities. (Niederwimmer and Attridge 1998, 217–218)

The teachings of the early church fathers are not that far off the mark these days.

Are there so-called followers of Jesus Christ who find themselves supporting the lawlessness of today? Yes. Welcome to a Lutheran Church in MN actively engaged in training others to engage in lawlessness.

Here at Calvary Chapel, our job is simple, make disciples. We are always ambassadors of Christ and as a result, even if confronted by those who want to disrupt us, we must guard our words and actions.

Colossians 4:5–6

“Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Your speech must always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.” (NASB 2020)

Let’s pray.



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