

Good morning Arising Church!

Today we want to make the schemes of the devil and the strategy of God crystal clear for you. We live in a time when it's difficult to know exactly what to do to address all of the craziness. We can tell that there is a lot that is wrong and we know something needs to be done...but you don't want to cause more damage and contribute to the existing chaos. Well, our God didn't put us here to be paralyzed with fear so today we are going to teach you why you should be more than confident in the face of your enemies.

This message is titled:



We want to refresh you on a principle we just can't seem to get enough of.



Genesis 3:15 NIV84

“And I will put enmity
between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will crush your head,
and you will strike his heel.”

- In the beginning God revealed exactly how war between the offspring of Eve and the offspring of the serpent would go
- the serpent would stretch out to strike at man's heel and in response would have his head crushed
- It became clear to us that God would employ the strategy of drawing out the head of the serpent only to crush him
- We saw that His strategy involved being in a vulnerable place and even being struck but would result in ultimate victory
- something also hidden in this is that while God was talking directly to two actual humans and a serpent, there was a power that was behind the serpent, Satan and

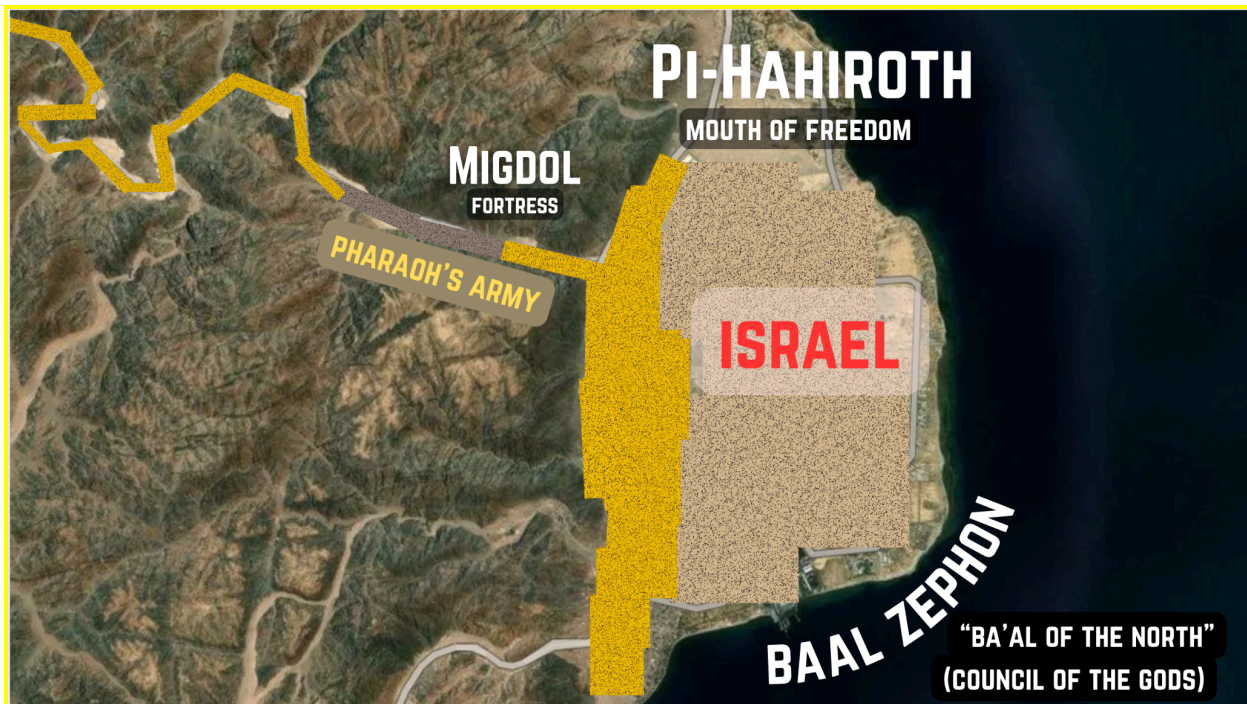
the descendant of Adam, the messiah who would ultimately crush the head of that serpent
-but we also learned something else...

Romans 16:20 NIV84

“The God of peace will soon crush Satan under **your** feet.
The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.”

- God's strategy that brought the messiah victory over the serpent would be the same strategy we would employ
- There is something we need to recognize here, it says the God of peace will crush... this is not saying the God of being nice or the God who sweeps things under the rug and avoids the problem will soon, somehow in a metaphorical way crush.
- the God who **MAKES** peace will crush and he will help us be like him.

Let's go back to one of the clearest first examples of this with the nation of Israel
(leave this up while the verse is read)



Exodus 14:1-4

Then the Lord said to Moses,

2“Tell the Israelites to turn back and encamp near Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea. They are to encamp by the sea, directly opposite Baal Zephon. (Nokhach, in front of, facing!)

3Pharaoh will think, ‘The Israelites are wandering around the land in confusion, hemmed in by the desert.’

4And I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord.” So the Israelites did this.

- The point here is that there was a way that avoided having to pass through water, and God clearly said, go get yourself trapped
- He told them to go right in the face of...this is the intended meaning of opposite Baal Zephon...go get right up in his face, I want him to see this...in fact it's the council of the godS (plural). He wanted everyone to see this
- I will gain glory for myself and the Egyptians will know...so the Israelites did this...God was using his people in the process to humiliate Pharaoh

In verse **25** they even say, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The Lord is fighting for them against Egypt!"

- He even got the Egyptians to acknowledge His active and present power

Let's take a look at another

1 Samuel 17:36

[36] Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God.”

1 Samuel 17:41–44

[41] And the Philistine moved forward and came near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him. [42] And when the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was but a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. [43] And the Philistine said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. [44] The Philistine said to David, “Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the field.”

(leave this up while the verse is read)



1 Samuel 17:46–47

[46] This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, [47] and that all this assembly may know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hand.”

-Since this story is familiar, let's take a look at a picture most people don't necessarily consider

-David was first falsely accused by his brothers.

-These brothers are paralyzed soldiers

- (paralyzed by what? FEAR... and it manifested in accusations and combative speech or quarreling toward their brother, **Matthew 12:34 "the mouth speaks what the heart is full of."**)

-not only is there an intimidating philistine army standing by

-there is a giant warrior hurling insults and threats

-and a king cowering in fear

-God didn't just choose a warrior from Israel, He chose a young boy...

-Goliath said he would feed David to the beasts of the field and the birds of the air...David responded back by saying I'll feed your entire army to the beasts of the field and the birds of the air and proceeds to kill Goliath, cut off his head and then walk around with it while the Israelite army pursued the philistines. God didn't just want to beat the enemy, he wanted to get right in his face and humiliate him and all who followed him while emboldening the people of God at the same time.

When the Israelites lost to the philistines in 1 Samuel 4, the ark of the covenant was taken and all hope seemed lost.

But the ark was taken and placed right in the face of Dagon, the philistine fish god.

(Leave this slide up while the verses are read)



1 Sam. 4:3-4

3When the people of Ashdod rose early the next day, there was Dagon, fallen on his face on the ground before the ark of the Lord! They took Dagon and put him back in his place.

4But the following morning when they rose, there was Dagon, fallen on his face on the ground before the ark of the Lord! His head and hands had been broken off and were lying on the threshold; only his body remained.

What seemed like defeat was a spiritual battle where the Lord demonstrated His superior power right in the face of the philistines god. He just wanted to get close enough, right in his face to smash him.

The philistines end up acknowledging the power of God
-are you guys beginning to get the picture

1 Sam. 5:11

So they called together all the rulers of the Philistines and said, "Send the ark of the god of Israel away; let it go back to its own place, or it will kill us and our people." For death had filled the city with panic; God's hand was very heavy on it.

- We aren't just talking about people being at war
- we also aren't just talking about gods being at war
- we aren't just talking about God using people as proxies
- we are talking about God getting right up in the face of His enemies and humiliating them until they acknowledge Him

We have given you 2 examples from the law and 2 from the prophets, let's get 2 from the writings...

You are already familiar with the story of Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah who were taken captive into Babylon.

But let's take a closer look at their story.

You know Nebuchadnezzar set up an idol that the people were commanded to bow down to and you know that these young Jewish men refused.

In fact they stood up in the face of everyone bowing down to this image though the stated penalty for such an act of defiance was being thrown into the blazing furnace.

Astrologers came forward to accuse them before Nebuchadnezzar...let's pick up in Daniel 3:13

IN THE FACE OF MY ENEMIES



- IDOLATROUS CROWD
- ACCUSING ASTROLOGERS
- THREATENING KING
- TOWERING IDOL
- RAGING FIRE

Daniel 3:13-18 ESV

13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. So they brought these men before the king. 14 Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them, “Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up? 15 Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the image that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?”

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. 17 If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. 18 But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

- V19 Nebuchadnezzar's attitude changes, he becomes furious and orders that the fire be heated 7x hotter than usual and then in v20 he orders that the strongest soldiers bind them and throw them in.
- Then what happens?
- The fire consumes the mighty men who had bound them.
- Right in the face of the king the astrologers... in the face of THE global empire, not only do they survive but the men who throw them in die and a fourth that looks like the son of the gods is now with them.
- Then Nebuchadnezzar says "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, **servants of the Most High God, come out**"

28 "**Blessed be the God** of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in him, and set aside the king's command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God

29 Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that speaks anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins, for there is no other god who is able to rescue in this way.

- these young men were in a wicked empire surrounded by pagans everywhere
- the strongest soldiers, a demanding king, a compromised people, and a blazing furnace
- Nebuchadnezzar's own soldiers die! And he ends up praising their God!!

Right in the face of their enemies...the praise of the idol is redirected toward the most high God!

Daniel 6

- We see the same thing in Daniel 6. Daniel opens his window and prays in the face of everyone.
- Surrounded by accusers and lions and delivered
- His accusers are devoured

- And the King declares that the God of Daniel is to be feared.

There was another man who we believe caught on to the way that God works so much so that he went and created the trap himself.

1 Kings 18:19 (NIV 1984)

“Now summon the people from all over Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the **four hundred and fifty** prophets of Baal and the **four hundred** prophets of Asherah, **who eat at Jezebel’s table.**”

You know the story he gathers them all, tells them whoever wins the contest, his god is God. He taunts their gods while they unsuccessfully try to appeal to them. I'll pick up in v.29

1 Kings 18:27,29–30

NIV 1984

27 And at noon Elijah mocked them, saying, “Cry aloud, for he is a god. Either he is musing, or he is relieving himself, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened.” **29** *“Midday passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention.*

30 *Then Elijah said to all the people, ‘Come here to me.’ They came to him, and he repaired the altar of the LORD, which was in ruins.”*

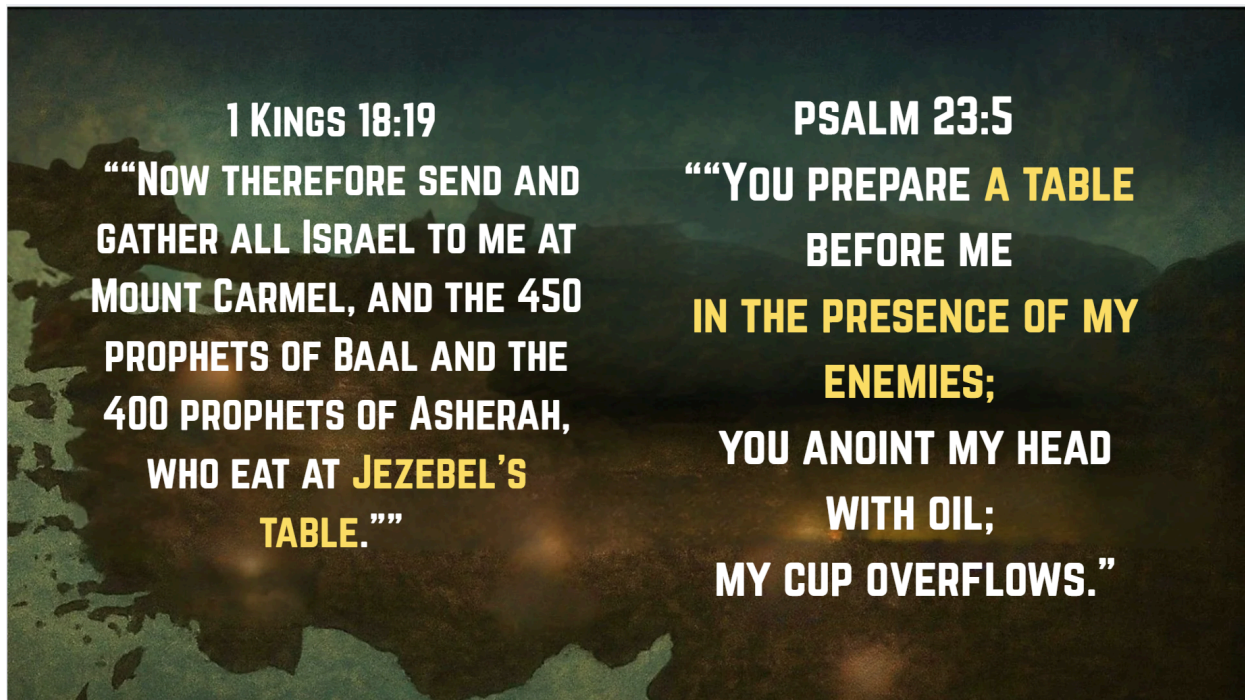
He then calls on the Lord and the Lord answers him right in not just the faces of the people, but the faces of their gods. "Seize them" he cried and the put the prophets of Baal to death.

(example of Elisha)

His disciple also seemed to realize how this worked as Elisha's servant in 2 kings 6 panicked at the sight of a gathered enemy army. I don't think Elisha had special sight, I think he just knew that the enemy gathers to strike and the Lord was able to crush them at any moment.

We want to draw your attention to something that Elijah says in v19, "who eat at Jezebel's **table**."

While Elijah is instigating this trap right in the face of the enemy he points out the table at which these false prophets eat.



Now this is not a 1 for 1 comparison but rather a contrast of provision and opposition. We find this contrast intriguing and worth your further study. The pattern is clear. Individuals will feast at the table of those they worship. While the

We are hoping that after multiple examples from the law, prophets and writings that you are beginning to see this is not a one off story nor is it a personality trait that is immutable for some men... this is Gods personality, God not shy about defeating His enemies decisively...He humiliates these spiritual powers with willing vessels who walk right up to what looks like certain death and say you've got nothing on me...do your worst...He wants to make it abundantly clear to

everyone in heaven and on earth that He is not the least bit threatened by any of His opponents and the men that we have referenced aren't threatened either.

How do you think God would act if He put on flesh and came and dwelt among us. Let's revisit how He displays this same kind ofchutzpah and walks right up to the faces of all these rebellious spiritual powers...

Matthew 16:13-16 NIV 1984

13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi (*Remind them that this is where the gates of hades were, the temple to pan, zeus, and Caesar*), he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

14 They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

15 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

-people came from all over to worship all these different idols...these gods that are no gods and Jesus walked right up in their face, just like Israel at Ba'al Zephon, just like the ark in front of Dagon, just like David in front of Goliath, just like Elijah and so on...

-Do you guys remember when we taught you about the rebellious angelic powers making the covenant on top of Mt. Hermon? Jesus walks straight up from the base of Mt. Hermon at Caesarea Philippi to the top of Mt. Hermon to go right to their special place

Book of Enoch – Chapter 6

And it came to pass when the children of men had multiplied that in those days were born unto them beautiful and comely daughters.

And the angels, the children of the heaven, saw and lusted after them, and said to one another: 'Come, let us choose us wives from among the children of men and beget us children.'

And Semjaza, who was their leader, said unto them: 'I fear ye will not indeed agree to do this deed and I alone shall have to pay the penalty of a great sin.'

And they all answered him and said: 'Let us all swear an oath, and all bind ourselves by mutual imprecations not to abandon this plan but to do this thing.'

Then swore they all together and bound themselves by mutual imprecations upon it.

And they were in all two hundred; who descended in the days of Jared on the summit of Mount Hermon, and they called it Mount Hermon, because they had sworn and bound themselves by mutual imprecations upon it.

Matthew 17:1–3 (NIV 1984)

1 After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves.

2 There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light.

3 Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.



- He goes to the top of Mt. Hermon where there was an angelic rebellion as these powers tried to usurp the plan of God and there is transfigured into glory as God speaks over Him...this (not another) is my son, listen to HIM not another!
- This same region is where the temples to all these other gods were and Jesus walks right up and says "Say my name!" right in their faces! When He says, blessed are you Simon because this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven, its not just for the disciples, He's saying this so they all can hear him and then on the mountain, God confirms it!
- This was the same area (within just a few miles of Caesarea Philippi, still at the base of Mt. Hermon) as you can see on the map where Jeroboam built a false temple to keep people from going back to Jerusalem
- Which is only footsteps away from where Lot was taken captive and Abraham came and defeated the transregional coalition of kings to rescue his family...it's now called Abraham's gate...right in the face 2000 years struggle all right here and Jesus comes and removes all doubt if there was any right in their faces

The revelation of the Christ that Peter spoke in the face of the lesser gods would be the same revelation that got Stephen arrested and taken before the Sanhedrin where he would be surrounded by the same people who killed Jesus.

Listen to his speech

Acts 7:51–53

[51] “You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you.

Stephen stood bold, surrounded, just like Elijah, proclaiming to them exactly what the Holy Spirit was speaking. Elijah taunted them, Stephen rebuked them but it was the same Spirit. The same as Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, even at the threat of death standing their ground

Acts 7:54–60

[54] Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. [55] But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. [56] And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” [57] But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. [58] Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. [59] And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” [60] And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep. (ESV)

-Stephen won the same way his messiah won...He understood that this is what it looked like to overcome. He copied exactly what Jesus did, He prayed Father forgive them and then gave up his spirit. From this place as we keep reading we learn that the people were spread out from this place and the message spread even more...and the man giving approval over his death, would go on to plant churches and raise up ministers and write letters that we still benefit from.

-If the outcome seems to look different than in the Older Testament

Ephesians 3:10 (ESV)

“so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.”

-Jesus tells Peter He will build His church on this revelation...this is all unfolding in front of all rulers and authorities in heaven.

-Right here in front of all these lesser gods, this revelation that He got is what the gates of hell will not prevail against...As we read in Matthew 16 Peter is being used by God to declare a message to the heavens...it wasn't just God declaring it up on the mountain, it was man...Peter...declaring it at the base...humiliating them...right in their faces

Colossians 1:15 (ESV)

“He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.”

- Paul understood what was happening...the principalities and powers were being put to shame...echoes of every story that we have read and how did this happen? Through Jesus submission to the Father unto death...Jesus walked right up to death unflinching He overcame the greatest enemy
- But that wasn't all, we have watched him proclaim to the heavens, we watched him proclaim to the earth and there is one more group of faces he is going to go put it in

1 Peter 3:19 (ESV)

“in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison,”

-1 Peter makes it clear that Jesus went down to the rebellious spirits who had been put in prison during their rebellion and He proclaimed to them too...and what do you think He said? What message do you think He brought them? We are convinced that much like the ark going right into the temple of Dagon, He stood before them.....and put it in their face

If you're thinking the enemy never learns, you're right. In the last days, Jerusalem will be surrounded and the enemy will have again expose himself while he tries to strike at a seemingly vulnerable Israel...but if you've learned the pattern like Elijah did, you know that all of this is only leading to his downfall and humiliation

Revelation 19:15–18 (ESV)

15 “From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.

16 On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, ‘Come, gather for the great supper of God,

18 to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great.’

- Can you hear the angel taunting just like David
- The King comes to tread the winepress of enemies gathered to destroy His people
- They gathered only to be caught in a trap and humiliated by the Lord of Heaven's armies
- So that's it right...? Satan learns his lesson? He gets a 1000 year time out and what do you think he does as soon as he gets out

Revelation 20:7–10 (ESV)

7 “And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison
8 and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea.

9 And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them,

10 and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”

Look, we don't know what to tell you, this is the pattern, he doesn't stop...and as long as he keeps trying to strike at the heel, he's going to keep getting his head crushed until he is finally as low as it gets.

Look we'd love to continue telling you story after story of God winning just like this, of His people coming out emboldened and the enemy humiliated...but there is something special the Lord wants to show us.

After laying a firm biblical foundation of God's strategy of overthrowing the enemy through His people for His glory. We would like to clearly articulate the enemy we are called to stand in the face of to declare the manifold wisdom of God.

STATISTICS & HISTORY

GLOBALLY:

- THE GLOBAL MUSLIM POPULATION GREW 21% FROM 2010–2020, FROM 1.7 BILLION TO ~2.0 BILLION, FASTER THAN ANY OTHER MAJOR RELIGION AND **DOUBLE THE PACE OF GLOBAL POPULATION GROWTH.**
- MUSLIMS NOW MAKE UP 25.6% OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION – THIS IS NOT A TINY, PERSECUTED SECT, BUT A QUARTER OF HUMANITY.

DOMESTICALLY:

- MUSLIM STUDENT ASSOCIATION (ALIGNED WITH MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD) FORMED IN 1963 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
- 10'S OF MILLIONS \$ POURED INTO THE STATES DURING THE 60'S AND 70'S TO HELP BUILD MOSQUES, SCHOOLS & ESTABLISH ADVOCACY GROUPS

STATISTICS & HISTORY (CONT)

DOMESTICALLY

- 1991 “AN EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM ON THE GENERAL STRATEGIC GOAL FOR THE GROUP IN NORTH AMERICA” OUTLINED THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD PLAN TO CARRY OUT JIHAD THROUGH SUBVERSION IN AMERICA
- THIS DOCUMENT WAS OBTAINED DURING A RAID IN 2004 AND DESCRIBED THEIR INTENDED INFRASTRUCTURE IN NORTH AM.
- IN 2018, A HEARING AT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES USED THIS DOCUMENT TO WARN THE PUBLIC OF THE GLOBAL THREAT OF ISLAM
- # OF MOSQUES: 2000-1209. 2010-2106. 2020-2769
- # OF SCHOOLS: 1991-4,482. 2015 40,485. **(803% INCREASE)**

STATISTICS & HISTORY (CONT...)

MOVEMENT BUILDING IN U.S.

- IMMIGRATION- 56% OF ALL MUSLIM IMMIGRANTS ARRIVED AFTER 2000, AND BY 2015 THERE WERE 3.3 MILLION FOREIGN-BORN MUSLIMS IN THE U.S. (2.5 MILLION HAVE IMMIGRATED SINCE 2000)
- BIRTH RATE- MUSLIM AMERICANS HAVE THE HIGHEST FERTILITY RATE OF ANY RELIGIOUS GROUP IN THE COUNTRY (2.8 VS U.S. AVERAGE ~1.7)
- INSTEAD OF DISPERSING EVENLY, MUSLIM COMMUNITIES OFTEN CLUSTER INTENSELY IN: **CHICAGO METRO**, DEARBORN/DETROIT, MINNEAPOLIS METRO, NORTHERN NEW JERSEY, HOUSTON, DALLAS, ORANGE COUNTY
SMALL AREAS + HIGH CONCENTRATION = LARGE POLITICAL INFLUENCE.

STATISTICS & HISTORY (CONT...)

MUSLIM-MAJORITY IMMIGRANTS BUILD: MOSQUES, SCHOOLS, SOCIAL CENTERS, ADVOCACY NETWORKS (LARGELY FUNDED BY FOREIGN INVESTMENT)

POLITICAL ACTIVATION

- THEY VOTE IN BLOCS AND RUN FOR OFFICE EARLIER THAN MOST IMMIGRANT GROUPS. 1990'S LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS, TRUSTEES, 2000'S CITY COUNCILS, ZONING BOARDS, MAYOR, 2010'S STATE LEGISLATURE, CONGRESS, 2020'S LARGE CITY MAYORS, COUNTY BOARDS, CONGRESSIONAL PRESENCE SOLIDIFIED, DOZENS OF STATE REPRESENTATIVES NATIONWIDE, HEAVY SCHOOL BOARD/CITY COUNCIL PENETRATION IN SEVERAL METRO AREAS

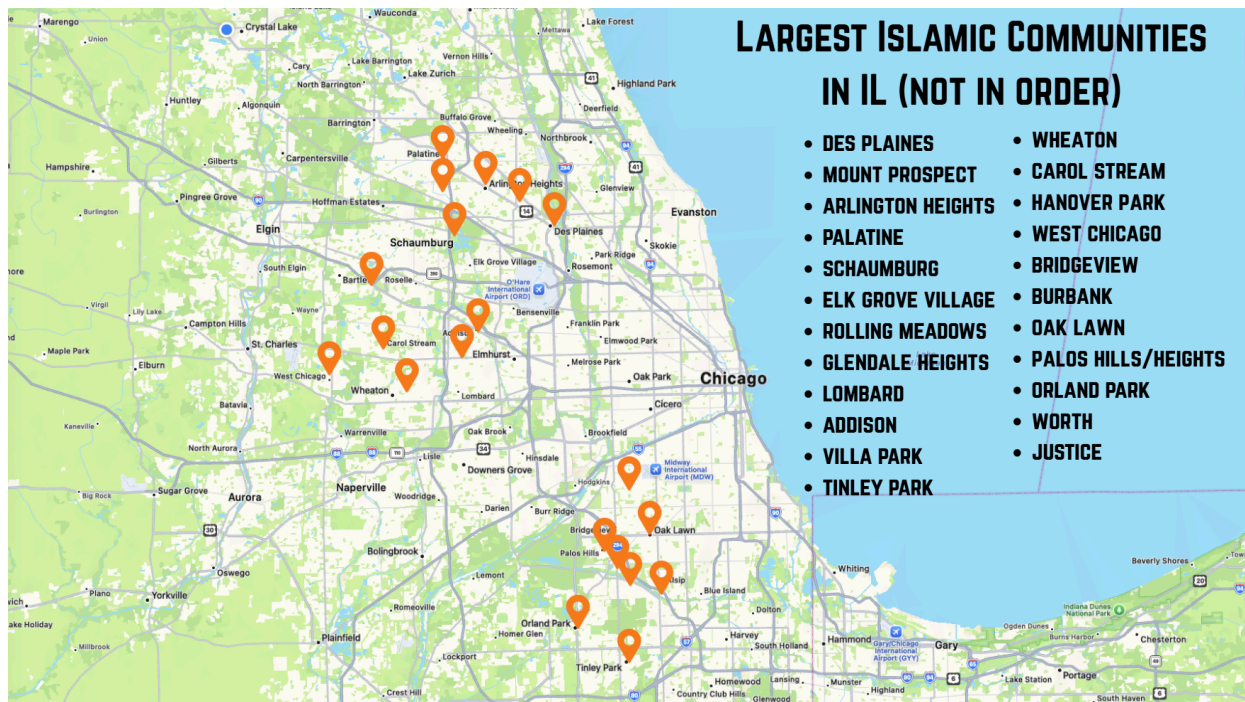
STATISTICS & HISTORY (CONT...)

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Take a look at a map with some of the largest islamic communities in Illinois...



Looking at this map, it's easy to feel like the enemy has already won, already entrenched and there's nothing we can do about it. Just like when David arrived at the camp with the philistine army and a GIANT threatening and mocking the Sauls army. But what did David do? When he saw the threat he stood up and doubled down, he would not be intimidated. The Satanic religion of Islam is taking ground, subverting and making a mockery of this nation and yet we will not be intimidated, God is not intimidated, he is also not unaware.

2 Chronicles 12:32 tells of the men of Isachar who understood the times and knew what Israel must do in response. The Lord has been showing us something over the last 10 years and it's all just beginning to make sense to us.



MAJOR CITIES IN THE NORTHEAST QUADRANT

- CHICAGO (W. RIDGE/DEVON CORRIDOR)*
- SKOKIE*
- LINCOLNWOOD
- MORTON GROVE
- NILES
- EVANSTON
- GLENVIEW
- NORTHBROOK
- DEERFIELD-HIGHLAND PARK
- LIBERTYVILLE* / WAUKEGAN
- DES PLAINES
- NAPERVILLE
- BRIDGEVIEW*
- VILLA PARK
- SCHAUMBURG
- ELGIN*
- ROCKFORD*
- WHEATON*
- BOLINGBROOK
- CRYSTAL LAKE*

Back in 2015 we put up a slide in response to a vision the Lord gave of the north east quadrant of illinois. We didn't really know what to do with it but it was important enough to turn into a slide and talk about.

Around the same time the Lord had given us Isaiah 54:2 multiple times

“Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes.

We honestly thought this was fulfilled when we went into the literal tent in our backyard to have church.

Shortly after this Pastor Masi and Pastor Hutchinson saw a shared vision of fire going down route 31 which is a road that runs north and south believing that revival would come to these areas.

In addition to this, Elder Charlie from LCM gave us a word from Ecclesiastes 11:3 When clouds are heavy, the rains come down. Whether a tree falls north or south, it stays where it falls.

And finally, when Refuge City was being formed, Pastor Eric spoke multiple times that this church would be a model for future churches. All of these things put together show us that God has understood the plan all along and we are just now realizing what He has been speaking.

Elaborate on planting in our backyard.



