

## Born to be the First to Become God, Pt. 1

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Amazing. In a week and a half, we'll be observing Passover. Kind of seems like it's sneaking up on us fast this year. And right now we're in the process of going through different sermon series that focus on those things that are revealed in God's plan concerning His Son, Joshua.

Last Sabbath, we completed a series entitled *God's Plan For His Son*. I'm trying to break this up into different segments so that it's not just one, giant, long seven-eight-whatever sermon series type of thing, so we have a little bit of break-up there.

So, anyway, we finished *God's Plan for His Son*, in which we covered many of the prophecies about Christ that He began to fulfill once God gave Him life, human life, in order to fulfill His purpose of being the Passover for all mankind.

Today, we are beginning a new series entitled *Born to be the First to Become God*.

So, in order to truly begin to understand the life God gave to Joshua and how He had to come into this world as fully human, one must first grasp what traditional Christianity has never understood. We know this truth, but we have only known it for a few years now, so we need to have this deeply embedded in our being, in our thinking, in our minds, in our belief and conviction in God and Christ.

So, I'm going to read part of this now: Because of the belief within traditional Christianity of the trinity, they are not able to come to full or deeper understanding and appreciation of God and His Son who came as our Passover. Even those who were among the Church of God that were scattered after the Apostasy are hindered or prevented from coming into a much deeper understanding and appreciation.

Because God has revealed these things to us, every time new truth or more truth is given to us, obviously, there is a greater appreciation of what God is doing, how God is doing it. It becomes more exciting when we see the things that God allows us, gives us to see. We're very blessed in that. So again, we come into a much deeper understanding and appreciation, thankfulness, and awe, if you will, toward God and Christ, all because of their belief in a portion or in one-third of the trinity, if you will, talking about the scattered Body. Because that's where they're stuck. They're still in that particular era where they believe in one-third of the trinity. Not the other two parts, in that respect, about the things that are taught that God has blessed us to understand.

He gave Mr. Armstrong understanding that there was no such thing as a spirit that was one of the Godhead, within the Godhead, if you will. And anyway, we've been very blessed to be able to understand the other part of it, that Joshua did not eternally exist. That's an awesome thing to understand.

So, reading the rest of this: ...which is the belief of the false teaching of Christ having eternal life inherent in Himself, in the belief that He had always existed just as God has always existed.

So, just that fact alone, understanding that God Almighty is the only one who has eternal life inherent in Himself. Because of not understanding that fully even the spirit world, as far as the angelic realm was concerned, it wasn't understood by the Church. We had the concept that they are forever because they're spirit. And we've learned that no, that's not the case. Only God Almighty is eternal.

So anyway, let's go over to Isaiah 45. Who believes this? It's amazing, even within Worldwide we didn't know. That's always an awesome thing – we read something, when God gives us a truth, and then we can see it in a totally different light. And until we do, until God reveals something, we just can't see it. This is a good example of that.

**Isaiah 5:45—I am the Eternal** (Yahveh, meaning the Eternal, obviously, the Eternal Existing One) **and there is no other...** or translated as “none else.” No one else; only the Eternal. Incredible. Just accepting that for what it says, if we could, or if we could have in times past, but until God shows us what it's really saying, what it's about, we can't see.

**There is no...** it says “**God,**” but it's **Elohim**. And we understand what that's about, being a matter of the God Family. Basically, saying there is no one in Elohim. That's what God is telling us. Because it's a family name. And so, He says, **except Me/besides Me**. Just Him. **I will gird you, though you have not known Me, that you may know from the rising of the sun to the setting that there is none besides Me. I am Yahweh** (the Eternal, in other words), **and there is no other/none else**. Awesome!

So clear to us, like some were talking here before services about now, when we see the word “Jesus,” it's like that's so far out for our thinking because we see Joshua when we see that. It's very clear to us. But at one time, that's all that we could see, that's all we understood.

**Verse 18—For thus says Yahweh** (the Eternal), **who created the heavens (who is God!) (Who is Elohim!), who formed the earth and made it; who established it, who did not create it in vain but formed it to be inhabited! I, the Eternal** (or Yahweh again here), **and there is no other**.

So, awesome, beautiful verses to understand what that is all about, to understand God in a greater way, to have a greater appreciation and awe of Almighty God. Even to understand that He didn't create the earth in tohu and bohu. It was created perfect when it was first created. And then to know the story of what Satan did in trying to destroy it all, trying to destroy God's plan, that which he has done from the very beginning when he began to resist God and fight against God's way.

Let's turn over to Luke 1. Then we come to some of the first accounts that lead up to the birth of the Son of God. **Luke 1:1** it begins, **Forasmuch as many have taken it to hand**, or undertaken it, is what he's saying, **have undertaken this task to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most**

**surely believed among us**, speaking of the Church and those a part of the Church. So, he's talking about those who have taken it in hand to write about it.

**Even as they were delivered unto us, who from the beginning were eyewitnesses.** So, Luke wrote about this later than others who had put to hand when you read John, Matthew, and so forth there. **...and ministers of the word, it seemed good to me also, having made perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto you in order, most excellent Theophilus.** So, he's writing this to Theophilus as he did... Well, I'll get to that point in a moment. But incredible here. So, it's like, who is Theophilus? He wasn't in the Church, we understand, in the very beginning here. He was unique in that respect. And yet Luke is writing to him to share with him those things that were given for a purpose, for a reason.

And it goes on to say, then, **verse 4—that you may know the certainty of those things.** So, he's helping him in his writing. It's a desire to see him be able to become convicted of the truth of what has taken place over a period of time. Now, he wasn't of the apostles; he wasn't an original disciple by any measure. He was a disciple in the sense of following Christ and seeing things and witnessing things. But again, here, at what point we don't fully know, but he received this from many witnesses, what he's writing about. **...wherein you have been taught.**

So, I'm going to read a little bit about who he is, speaking of Theophilus to whom Luke is writing. And again, Luke was not one of the twelve disciples of Christ, however, he does identify himself as one who is among the disciples, as we'll see, or if you read the book and Acts as well, because he wrote the book of Acts. He was among other disciples who followed Christ and from among eye witnesses from the beginning, and ministers or servants of the word they were receiving from Christ.

So, that's a part of the history here of him and what he was doing in the beginning of the writing here. So, it's referred here in Acts 1. I want to read what he had to say here because he mentions Theophilus again. Because I think it's really interesting here who he was or what is known about him. We'll come back to Luke here in a moment.

**Acts 1:1—The former account I made...** So, as he's writing the book of Acts he's referring back to the book of Luke. So, he's talking about the former account. So, he's writing to him again, to Theophilus. **... O Theophilus, of all that Joshua began both to do and teach.** Now, I'll just go on and read some more here that I put down about some of this.

So again, Theophilus is the recipient of what Luke wrote both in Luke, the book of Luke, and in Acts. Theophilus has the meaning of "friend of God" or "beloved of God." I love it when you have certain names and they have meaning in it in what's being said there.

He is believed to be an individual who was high-ranking among Roman officials. Because Luke doesn't say much at all, he just has these two accounts referring to him. But this is what, because of how Luke

addresses some of these things, this is believed who he was in the words that he uses and so forth. Just as the way he was addressed, where he calls him “Most Excellent Theophilus,” a term and so forth that’s used in a unique way, was used by Paul as well when he spoke of Governors, Festus and Felix, when he addressed them as “Most Excellent.” Because it had to do with the fact they were a part of the Roman rule, the Roman government, and addressing them in a proper, respectful way according to their title.

So, that’s why it was believed that this Theophilus is one of those individuals within the government.

So, in the book of Acts, Luke is the author and is a traveling companion of the apostle, Paul. He was a gentile physician, as recorded in Colossians 4:14. He meticulously documented the early Church’s growth. And some of the things written about him, he was sharp, exceedingly well educated. And the way he writes reveals a lot of that. I hadn’t even noticed—some things you don’t even see until it’s pointed out—and then all of a sudden a light goes on and it’s like, yeah, awesome. He writes totally different from the others. He’s very meticulous about history, about events, and so forth. And so, very unique in that respect, both the book of Acts and the book of Luke.

So again here, he was a gentile physician; he meticulously documented the early Church’s growth, Paul’s missionary journeys, and the spread of the gospel, often appearing in “we.” So, that’s how he wrote. That means he was there; he was present when he used those terms in passages indicating the first-hand presence with Paul. So, when you go through the book of Acts, and you see “we did ‘this’,” “we did ‘that’,” he’s talking about himself being there, and he’s documenting all these things in Paul’s travels.

So, when we went through that series, or the series, and covered so much in the book of Acts about Paul, awesome, this is Luke who documented all this.

So again, going back to Luke now, going on in **Luke 1:5—There was in the days of Herod, a king of Judea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abijah. And his wife... So again, everything he’s telling Theophilus, in that respect, he documents very well. And awesome, the purpose that God had for all this. ...was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Now, they were both righteous before God, walking in the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.** Meaning, in that respect, that no one is perfect, obviously, but it’s about as far as the law is concerned, this is what they did strive to live by. This is what they were striving to do. They believed things about God, and so they were striving to live it in their life.

**Also, they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years. Then it came to pass that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course...**

So, different of the Levitical system here. They had different times, different areas they served, and maybe served for a period, short period of two weeks in some cases. There were so many of them they divided things up in that manner, and this is how they served.

**Then it came to pass that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course, according to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.** So, this is what he was doing at this particular time. **And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside of it at the time of incense.** So again, service within the temple, things that they were to do and the like, and this was very specific about what he was doing.

**Verse 11—Then there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord, standing on the right hand of the altar of incense.** So, he's in here serving and then this takes place. Awesome! Even the preparation for all this. I marvel at how God has everything all planned out and then fulfills it, just as this example here. This isn't something that just all of a sudden happened and God decided, "Well, we're going to have someone fulfill this." This was a role that was to be fulfilled in an awesome way, and this is what God was doing at this particular time.

**Now, when Zacharias saw him, he was distressed, and fear fell upon him.** I think if any one of us even in the Church had something like that happen to us we would be a little unnerved. Because it's not something people experience.

**But the angel said to him, Do not fear, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son.** Who knows how long he's been praying about this. They've desired a son for a long, long time. So, how long? Sometimes we go through things that might seem like a long time, and in our lifetime, they maybe are. But God has a way of working things out in life in an awesome way.

So, he says, **Your prayer has been heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will call his name John.** Not by chance. It was all a matter of design, that which God had determined a long time ago, and here is the time for fulfilling it. **And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.** Now, he already knows his wife is beyond having children, beyond being able to do such a thing, to conceive. Incredible! So, here he is listening to all this, and what has to go through the mind?

So again here, "And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth." To the life given to him because of God's purpose and what God's going to do through him. Awesome! **For he will be great in the sight of the Eternal, and will drink neither wine nor strong drink. Even he will be filled with the holy spirit, even from his mother's womb.** Not begotten of God but be filled with God's spirit. We don't fully understand that, but God working with him, making it very clear that God is working with John. He has a purpose in working with him from the earliest stage.

**Verse 16—So, many of the children of Israel will he turn to the Lord their God.** And he did. Because of his work, because of things that took place, there had been a lot of people who had been prepared by the time Pentecost came around and the Church began.

**He also will go before Him in the spirit and power of Elias/Elijah.** He's going to go before God with the power that God gives to him, and this is that power. **...to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children.** I

marvel at these verses when we go through and talk about this with Elijah, because a lot of this was seen in a physical way of things we were to do within the Church, of things that were to take place as far as Y.O.U. and Y.E.S., though all good programs and plans in that sense of giving opportunities, but it's far beyond that. Because you look back, when that was all said and done, how much did it produce? What did it produce? Unless God is in it all the way, all the time, it's an experience that people had, opportunities they had, but that didn't in any fashion or form guarantee anyone was going to choose God or become a part of the Body of Christ.

"To turn the hearts of the fathers to the children." That's something on a spiritual plane. The hearts of the fathers. Who are they? Who are the children? You know, when God begins to call us and draw us it's about what's inside, it's about what's in the mind, and toward the forefathers, of things we could never see before. Going all the way back, it doesn't matter whether it be about Abel or Noah or Abraham or all the way through time to David, and there is that fondness and the excitement that we have then in the word of God, God's way of life, when our hearts begin turning because it's about the word of God. It's about how God worked in their lives. And that's what this is about.

**...to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just.** A mind change. The mind that can begin to repent and turn and change. **...to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.** Now, this was what was given for John to do as John the Baptist. Awesome! He's going to be used in a very powerful way because of God's spirit and the power that He's going to give through John in drawing others as well and what they hear, that they're going to be moved because of that, their hearts are going to be turned to wanting to desire to repent, wanting to see the Messiah.

That's what was in their minds, the desire to see the Messiah coming, that we're approaching a time that was unique. Because John spoke of how the Messiah was coming — Awesome! — and the need to repent, the need to turn to God. And people responded because of the power of God's spirit that was there drawing them. Because God was preparing a people, but using physical, human instruments to accomplish these things. We're able to share in God's purpose and God's plan.

Think of your calling and the calling of everyone through time. They've had a purpose in all of this of fulfilling God's purpose and plan at that specific time. And this one says, "to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." That's awesome! Do you think what is happening now is less? Incredible. Because that was to fulfill something on a physical plane, as Christ came to die to fulfill something physically, but spiritual in everything that it pictured and everything that was going to come through it, a relationship with God Almighty that people could have because of being able to be forgiven of their sins. Awesome! So that God could dwell in them. Awesome!

And all of this at this time to make ready a people. Because a people had to be prepared for this. That's the way God was going to do it. He was preparing to start a Church, preparing to work with mankind in a way that He'd never worked with mankind before because He did it more on a one-on-one basis for

4,000 years. There was no Church! Awesome to understand what happened when that began to take place. Pentecost 31 AD.

**Then Zacharias said to the angel, Whereby will I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is well stricken in years.** So, “How are we going to know this?” Well, maybe the wrong questions to ask, but in a carnal, physical world that’s what was in his mind.

**Then the angel said to him, I am Gabriel— Awesome! —who stands in the presence of God, and have been sent to speak to you and to declare you this good news. But now look, you will be dumb and not able to speak until the day that these things have been performed, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their season.** So, that’s why he asked the question, because it was like, “This can’t happen, so how are we going to know this?” He was disbelieving what he was being told.

**Now, the people waited for Zacharias, and marveled that he was taking so long in the temple.** When you go in to do your course, to do your work, there is a certain time there, and people are used to that. And he wasn’t coming out, so “What’s going on? Zacharias hasn’t come out of the temple.” Because people can’t just go into the temple any time they feel like it, to go and check on Zacharias. He had a job to do, and he wasn’t coming out.

**Now, when he came out, he could not speak unto them, and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple, for he was gesturing to them yet remaining speechless.** So, couldn’t speak, couldn’t talk, so he’s trying to do it with gestures so they could maybe understand something. Not sure how exactly. How would you describe seeing Gabriel and different things being given to you by gestures? I don’t know, but they perceived it, that something unique had happened there.

**...he was gesturing to them yet remaining speechless. Now, it came to pass that as soon as the days of his service were accomplished, he departed to his own house. Then after those days, his wife Elizabeth conceived, and hid herself five months, saying, Thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on me, to take away my reproach among people.** So, there is this thing of normal human nature where people judge others, and it’s like if something – even something we’ll see later on – but you know, when someone has something wrong with them or whatever, back then, at that time especially, people were judged mightily so. Because they had some ailment, they were born blind, as an example of things we’re going to see later on when we go through some series, and people were thinking, that, well, it’s because of some sin.

Worldwide! We had that in Worldwide for a long, long time, that if something happened in your life it’s because of some sin that you have committed. Because we weren’t to a growth yet, we weren’t at a place yet where God was showing us, “No, that isn’t the case.” Are there things that people do, and they suffer because of it? Yes, those things can happen. As a result of sin, certain things can happen in your life that messes up your life. But that doesn’t mean that because there are certain things that people

have, as an example here, a child born blind, when they're born, that it's because of the sin of the parents.

So, we've had to learn a lot about this matter of healing because we had an evangelist who taught a lot of screwy, goofy things about healing that were wrong, that weren't balanced, that weren't sound. It wasn't really a matter the way God worked in people's lives.

Anyway, this is an example here. So, the typical thing in human life, she's getting older, and back then, if you didn't, weren't able to have children, something is wrong with you. It's like, "What sin? I wonder what sin she's committed." Or "There is some sin that she must have committed or she would be able to have a child. So, she's not able to bear a child." So, that's what it's talking about when it puts it this way.

"Thus the Lord has dealt with me in the days when He looked on me, to take away my reproach from among people." You know, judging others is just a full-time job of human beings. People can't help it. Judging others, it's just a way of life out there. You think of the world, and I get so sick of this sometimes on TV. It's like ugh! I can't wait to see a world change where people begin to fight against that and learn that that's wrong, you know, in how we do things like that.

**Verse 26—Now in the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David.** So, here we are, a little farther up the road a little more is added. **The virgin's name was Mary. Now, having come in, the angel said to her, Rejoice, highly favored.** Called for something so incredible in human life. So, it states it in this way, then. How else can you state something like this, "Highly favored of God," for this?

**The Lord is with you; you are blessed among women!** Because there is only going to be one woman in all of human history that this would happen to. **But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and wondered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Joshua.** Isn't that incredible?

I still marvel sometimes how scriptures have been translated. And in Hebrews in that one place, when they know that it had to be that same word that's translated, they know that it's speaking of Joshua of old, so they used the word Joshua. But everywhere for Christ they put "Jesus." And you think, when they started planning that one in there and the conniving that went into that and where it came from, mind-boggling, it really is, human beings and what they have done to scripture.

**...and you shall call His name Joshua. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Highest.** The Son of God. **...and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.** Even though she heard this, she didn't grasp it. How could you at this point unless the mind of God is put in you? But on a physical plane, she couldn't see it; she couldn't grasp it all, what it was about. But she experienced it because she never had a relationship and yet she became pregnant.

**And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His Kingdom there will be no end.** So, not until later on did things begin to gel more and more for her. But for so long you think living like this, incredible, and always having it in your mind this is what the angel said to you.

**Then Mary said to the angel, How can this be, since I do not know a man? Then the angel answered and said to her, The holy spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.** Awesome! What else can you say? So powerful, so mighty in what was taking place here. He's going to be called the Son of God. And still, for that not to fully sink in, just receiving a little bit at a time, even after he was born, a little bit at a time.

The only one begotten in the womb by the holy spirit from God and would be the first among mankind to become God, to become Elohim, the first in Elohim after God the Father, because God the Father was the only one there, as we read earlier. But now the first one from among mankind to be able to become Elohim, God, the God Family. It's not the angelic family. It's not of angels, it is of God. It's not as God the Father, but it is of God. Awesome.

**Luke 1:36—Now indeed, Elizabeth, your cousin, has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren.** So, she knew her; she knew she was barren, knew the story. **For with God nothing will be impossible, or nothing is impossible. Then Mary said, See the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.** In other words, "So be it." She accepted it. **Then the angel departed from her.**

**Now, Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with quickness to the city of Judah, and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. Then it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the baby leaped in her womb.** What an incredible thing to feel something like that, something happening as soon as Mary's voice came into the room. **...and Elizabeth was filled with the holy spirit. Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb!** It was given to her then and there from God Almighty that those words came out. She was moved by God's spirit, something she was able to see or believe or have in her mind that she couldn't help but say what had been given to her by God. Awesome!

**Verse 43—But why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?** Can you imagine how moving that was for her, because she was filled with the holy spirit and she could see something on a physical plane as far as being who she was, and she said, "How could the mother of my Lord...?" Because she saw in her mind who He was, her Lord, the Messiah. Awesome. **For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the baby leaped in my womb.**

**Verse 45—Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord. Then Mary said, My life magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant. For look, from henceforth all**

**generations will be called blessed.** So, just by that experience more was given to her, more in her mind and her thinking as far as Mary is concerned.

Then it goes on to say, **For He** (speaking of God) **who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. And His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with His arm,** in other words, the power to do so. **He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.** These are things being given to her by God's spirit in her mind.

At first, when she was told what was going to take place she agreed and made her choice. She agreed to what was to take place, to be given to her by God, not grasping and comprehending it yet by any measure. Now, more is given to her.

**He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty.** These are spiritual things. These aren't physical things; this is a message like things given to David when he wrote the Psalms, so many of the Psalms, things that God gave in his mind to be able to write. Things were given to her to be able to speak.

**He has helped His servant Israel, in being reminded of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever. Then Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her home.**

**Now, Elizabeth's full time came to her to be delivered, and she brought forth a son. When his neighbors and relatives heard how the Lord had shown great mercy to her, they rejoiced with her. So it was, on the eighth day, that they came to circumcise the child; and they would have called him by the name of his father, Zacharias. His mother answered and said, No.** So, this is a formal time of something that takes place and the name is formally given, and this is what's being addressed here. **And she said, No, he will be called John. But they said to her, There is no one among your relatives who is called by that name.** So, it was tradition of that which they passed down.

**So they made gestures to his father—what he would have him called. Then he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, saying, His name is John.** He's gone through this whole time not being able to speak, and now he writes this down because he can't do anything else, "His name is John." He's not going to argue against God for sure. He knows where this has come from. **So, they all marveled.**

**Immediately, his mouth was opened, and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, praising God.** I'm sure he did after that long a time, all of a sudden here it's like what a relief he could speak again. **Then fear came on all those who dwelt around them, and all these things were discussed throughout all the hill country of Judea.** Can you imagine? They've never experienced anything like this and yet there were people there and they knew the history of something that had happened when he came out of the temple and he couldn't speak anymore, and now all of a sudden he can speak and this baby is born. And it's like, "This is incredible!" and so people talked about it.

**Then all those who heard them kept them in their hearts, saying, What kind of child will this be? We can only imagine what people would think. For these things to take place, this is important: “What kind of a child is this going to be?” And the hand of the Lord was with him.**

**Verse 67— Now his father Zacharias was filled with the holy spirit, and prophesied, saying...** So again here, just as Elizabeth spoke, just as Mary spoke, and now Zacharias. **Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people, and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David.** He’s calling him exactly what he is, what he’s to do, what’s going to take place, and how he was going to be worked with. Because his job is to tell about this because it’s about Mary and what’s going to be born a little bit later here now with Mary, but he is prophesying of these things that are going to take place.

**...as He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, who have been since the world began, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.** So again, they could only understand these things on a physical plane. They knew what the Romans were doing, they were oppressed by the Romans, and on and on it goes. And so, that’s what their hope was, a Messiah would come and remove that power from them.

**...His holy prophets...since the world began, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember His holy covenant, the oath which He swore to our father Abraham, to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life.**

So again here, just being inspired to say these things after this moment he’s able to speak again. And God’s spirit worked with him to talk about these things, that which John is going to be a part of, that they don’t fully grasp nor understand, because he didn’t understand all of these things that he’s saying, but he’s inspired to say them because they’re prophetic. They’re from God. Because John is going to have a great hand in all of this.

**Now you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest. For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, to give knowledge of salvation to His people through the remission of their sins.** Incredible. They didn’t have anything like this before. Blood of bulls and goats didn’t take away sins, and then they’re talking about this in this context? **Through the tender kindness of our God, with which the Dayspring from on high has visited us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.** So again, prophetic here. Not able to be fully understood by those who heard it.

**So, the child grew and became strong in spirit and was in the deserts until the day of his showing forth to Israel.** Don’t understand all these things. It doesn’t tell us anything about it, of all that took place, and

of how God worked with him to prepare him for what he was getting ready to do. Because a lot of years have to pass before he began to do what was going to take place in baptizing people in the Jordan.

So, after these events concerning Zacharias and Elizabeth, then Mary, God begins to reveal more during the period of John the Baptist's preaching, again, in the regions of the Jordan River, obviously.

Mark 1:1. Again, just the beginning of these stories, a little here and a little there written about. It says, **Mark 1:1—The beginning of the good news of Joshua the Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way before You.**

**The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.** So, whether it was then or now, all through 6,000 years, this world has never been on course, and the only way it comes on course is when someone is drawn and called by God to be shown God's way, and then they can begin living the way that mankind is meant to live but can't live it until they're drawn by God and given ability to do so. Because it requires God's spirit to live His way of life.

And so God, again, just worked with a very few through time, but now we're at a remarkable time here, nearly 2,000 years ago.

So, again, "Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight His ways." God's ways. That means people have to change, there are things they have to do to change. And so, John's purpose was to go out and to teach some of those things, that people begin to change, begin to want to repent, begin to want to turn toward God, and hearts of the children turn to the fathers, as it talks about.

"Make His paths straight." You know, to give truth concerning the Son of God, concerning Christ, and about God as well. We're going to come back to this in a moment, but you might want to save a place here in Mark. But we're going to read Malachi 3 for this is where this is taken from, part of it.

**Malachi 3:1—Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me.** So, God is saying this, and the way is going to be prepared before Him and what He is going to be doing in sending His Son, Joshua.

**Then the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple.** What a beautiful expression here, to be able to show this. Because it's about Christ, what is going to be done to Him, and as it says here, "He will suddenly come to His temple." I think of those things that were prepared in advance after He was resurrected and then worked with the disciples for forty more days, and then ten days later, it started, the Body of Christ, the Church of God, the Temple of God in a way that hadn't existed before, obviously, in how God was going to work with mankind.

**He will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, He is coming, says the Eternal of hosts, speaking of Christ. But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire, and like launderers' soap. He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the children of Levi and purge them as gold**

**and silver.** So, these are on a spiritual plane, not a physical one. And so, this is being spoken of in a manner like this, “those whom God works with,” “who’s going to be able to stand in the day?”

Well, when is that day? It’s when God begins to work with people. It’s when people are called. Candidly, it’s when people are baptized. In the past 2,000 years, that’s the way it has worked. And it is about a process of change and yielding to God’s spirit, and a desire to conquer and overcome self, and a matter of going through this refining process in our lives. That’s why it says it in this way. “Who is going to stand?” Over 2,000 years, not many have. When it’s all been said and done, not many have.

“He is like a refiner’s fire, and like launderers’ soap” because it’s about being cleansed. It’s about garments being made white. So many scriptures that talk about that, and that’s only possible by going through a process of God’s spirit working in our lives and yielding to that process. Awesome! So, it’s showing the seriousness of our calling here, along with the reality it’s not an easy way; it wasn’t meant to be an easy way.

“He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; He will purify the children of Levi.” This is a spiritual thing, a spiritual priesthood. It’s not about a physical priesthood. That’s why God tells us, in essence, and Peter makes comment about it, and others in scripture, that we are a holy priesthood, a royal priesthood before God. That’s what we’ve been called to.

“And purge them as gold and silver,” getting rid of the dross. That’s what it means. Beautiful when done from heart, from mind, a desire toward God to change, to conquer and overcome, to repent, to want to become at one with God.

**...that they may offer to the Eternal an offering in righteousness.** Not in selfishness but of getting rid of that and learning how to give the way God says we are to give.

Going back to Mark. So again here, those things that are written in Malachi there and showing the beginning of it is a matter of the message that John gives and the message that he is going to do while he works along the Jordan River in baptizing people. Just a beginning here about the Messiah is coming, Christ is coming.

**Mark 1:4—John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.** So, it wasn’t a matter of receiving God’s spirit yet. It’s about a desire, about a choice, about if people respond to that and realize they need to change, that they need to turn to God. God was giving help there, working with John, working with those who were being drawn because it was about a preparing a people for the Lord, as it says, referring to Christ. So, this is all working up to that in His first coming.

**Then all or within all the land of Judea, those from Jerusalem...** When it says “all” here, it doesn’t mean everybody in the land of Judea came there to be baptized. It’s just talking about all those who did come; they came out of Judea, throughout Judea. **...and those from Jerusalem went out to him and were all**

**baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.** So, they acknowledge these things to God just as we do when we're called. We have to go before God, acknowledge what we are, accept what we are, in that sense being honest before God and desiring to change and live God's way of life.

**Now, John was clothed with camel's hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.** Not a fun job, but he did it. That was his calling. That was his life to live. And when it says camel's hair, I just start itching. So, I don't know what was underneath that, whether there was something else under it, but that doesn't sound like a whole lot of fun.

**Also, he preached, saying, There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loosen. Awesome! I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the holy spirit.** Beautiful. Because that's where it begins. It's about being baptized under water, and that's what everybody has to go through, coming up out of that water desiring to live in newness of life, but not able to do it without God's help. You have to receive the baptism of the holy spirit. And that's when we receive God's spirit, the impregnation of God's spirit. We're immersed in to God's spirit. That's what it's about. So, immersed in water first, and then immersed into God's spirit.

**And it came to pass in those days that Joshua came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Then immediately, coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens parting and the spirit descending upon Him like a dove. Then a voice came from heaven, You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.** We can't even begin to grasp how important, how awesome that was, how important this was to God Almighty. How long has He waited? How long?

We have no concept of time and the amount of time, of things that God went through and purposed and planned before any of His creation started. Because this was all determined before that. And then to create a spirit realm, and then angels to dwell within that. And then finally, a physical realm, a physical universe where things could begin to be created and put within it.

We can't grasp those things. God is so incredibly great, so far beyond what we can read in scripture. Without God's spirit, that's the only way we begin to grasp it. And the longer we're in God's Church, the more that God shows to us, the greater God becomes. Because we can't see it by any measure that might, that glory, that beauty.

"Then a voice came from heaven, You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Then Luke 3. So again here, Luke being very precise about things he said as he's writing to Theophilus. He says in **Luke 3:1—Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea...** So, this Theophilus would have known all these things, and he's spelling it out like it is, like it was, and Theophilus obviously understood some of these things, but he's documenting all this for him.

So, he said, **Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the regions of Trachonitis**, whatever that is. I don't know. ...**while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests**, it says, **the word of God came to John, the son of Zacharias, in the wilderness**. So again here, he's showing a history here, and he's showing this is what took place.

**And he went into all the regions around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins**. So, he's telling him about John the Baptist and what John the Baptist accomplished and fulfilled. ...**as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Eternal; make His paths straight**. "Of the Lord," as it says here, because they don't use the word Eternal in the New Testament. It's the word for Lord, Master.

And so again here, "Prepare the way of the Lord; make His paths straight." So, it's a part of this process of turning the hearts of the children to the fathers, to everything that has been written in times past through the forefathers that have gone before, the prophets and the like, and that's what the story is about.

**Verse 5—Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill brought low**. So again, speaking of spiritual things, that without God's help they can't be seen spiritually.

**The crooked places shall be made straight and the rough ways smooth**. This world is so screwed up. What mankind has done with things about God, I sometimes still am dumbfounded in going back in some of the things written in the book and thinking about that. And it's far, far worse than what's fully there, but there is only so much you can write or tell about.

But what Judaism did once they came out of captivity and after having been removed from the area of Jerusalem for seventy years, no longer having the temple and beginning a process of writing and kind of the beginnings, if you will, of a Talmud. Writing down various things about laws and things you could do and couldn't do because they didn't have the temple anymore as a guide and so forth as to their practice and what they were living, so they began to write about things that they could do in other parts of the world. And they strayed farther and farther and farther away. Even though there were those who came back, that process still continued in Persia for a long time and began to spread to other parts of the world, and then even within Judaism. Because they have this common bond, and as people began to let down after they came back, it's just a mixture of just so much that went off track so early on.

And then Christianity, so-called, if you will, picked up so many of those things and messed them up even worse. It's mind-boggling what's happened. And yet God's purpose shows us it's to set everything straight because everything is so crooked, so fouled up, so messed up, so twisted, so distorted it takes a long time to come out of that.

So, even as God's called us out of Sardis, began to work through an apostle, Herbert Armstrong, and began to reveal truth to him, and all that long process then of going through Laodicea and then finally the Apostasy, incredible.

"The crooked places shall be made straight and the rough ways smooth." Thank God. You know, that's a large part of what's taking place in the book. It really is. We have been so blessed to bring together so many things over such a long period of time that gradually has been given by God more and more. I think of the truths and everything that God gave to Herbert Armstrong, an outline, a diagram of the Holy Days from beginning to end of what God is going to do and has been doing through time. Awesome! And making it clear and more plain at an awesome time in life just before Joshua returns.

It was important indeed what was given in the beginning because it's about the Passover, it's about being able to come to repentance and being forgiven of sin. But I'll tell you, what's coming is such a leap forward. To grasp and comprehend what it was like when Christ first came is awesome. To understand what's getting ready to take place now, now the fulfillment of so much of that. 2,000 years of preparation, preparing people to become a part of a government that's going to last for 1,100 years, very powerfully so administered by Christ. And we're going to see it, and there are going to be those who are blessed to be part of it.

"The crooked places shall be made straight and the rough ways smooth." To realize we're at a transition in time that we're going to be able to begin to work to level out everything, to show everything that's false and wrong and in error in the world but with greater power to do so once Christ returns.

**And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.** All flesh in time. Because from this point on as soon as this happens, when Christ returns, and to realize that for the next 1,100 years, it will fulfill this. All flesh, they're going to be able to see what is true. They're not all going to choose it, all are not going to want it, but they're going to be able to see it without excuse.

It's going to be very clear what God's done after a thousand years on this earth. To be able to see those because they manifest themselves and work with people. No excuses whatsoever. No excuse for lies and things that are not true, that there are going to be those who are resurrected who want to hold on to past beliefs, past ideas because it's a different way of life.

**Then he said to the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him, Brood of vipers!** Didn't mince any words. **Who warned you to flee the wrath to come? Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance.** So, it's a matter of realizing being able to come face-to-face with what we're like. And that's what we have to begin to see when God calls us, what our nature is like, how corrupt, how vile, how wrong, and how ugly selfishness is.

**Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, We have Abraham as our father.** “Well, we have Abraham!” “We’re a little bit better. We’re a little bit better than others.” **For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from those stones.**

**Luke 3:12—Then tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, Teacher, what shall we do? And he said to them, Collect no more than what is appointed for you.** “Start changing your life. You haven’t been doing this right, so do it this way.” **Likewise, the soldiers asked him, saying, So, what shall we do? So he said to them, Do no violence to anyone or accuse falsely.** Because that’s what mankind does. That’s how the world operates. ...**and be content with your wages.**

**Now, as the people were in expectation, and all reasoned in their hearts about John, whether he was the Christ or not.** So, because of things he was teaching, because of what he was saying, and because they saw the movement of people, because that wasn’t normal either. People were being stirred, moved to come out and do what they were doing. It wasn’t normal. That’s because God was in it stirring people to want to do so, to want to go out there to hear John.

**Verse 16—John answered, saying to all, I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loosen. He will baptize you with the holy spirit and fire.** And then some in traditional Christianity, they want the baptism of fire. You think, “You have no idea what you’re asking for.” But anyway, one day they’ll come to understand it. Because that’s what happens at the end when you don’t choose God’s way of life.

**His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor.** That’s a powerful thing, and it means more today than it did five years ago, definitely more than ten years ago, maybe more than three or two years ago. That we come to a point where we become more deeply convicted that each one of us is responsible for self. And this is all we can be fully responsible for indeed – to change, to ask God help to change this. Choices, choices, choices until it’s over with. To be able to understand what God is doing, to understand what it means to become part of Elohim, to enter into God’s Family, to inherit with Christ everything. We can’t comprehend all that.

**His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly purge/thoroughly clean out His threshing floor and gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire.** So, always being reminded that that’s how important it is, the choices we make in life, and how awesome it is what God has blessed us with in choosing what we have been given.

I’m going to make time today for a little bit of news. Not a lot, but a little bit. I don’t know how much of this I’m going to go through. There are so many things happening in this world, you’d think... Well, it’s just absolutely incredible. Things shifting around, getting closer and closer and closer. We don’t know how long, when, but boy, do we have to be on guard, to be alert, to be ready, to make this ready.

I've got so many different ones I could read here but I think of some of the stupidity of mankind. I just have to read this one here, just the headline. **"Energy Secretary directs oil company to resume operations in California, citing national security."** You think of what they've done out there because of the green movement. I can understand why some people are upset about all the, candidly, cheating and misuse of government funds and so forth to build a lot of things that have been built. Anyway, mankind is really sick.

But you look at something like this, and you think to shut down refineries in your state? You think, people are just nuts out there. And to cause more problems at that particular part of the world at this time because they want to push their green agenda and so forth?

Anyway, going past that, here is an article: **Trump Warns NATO Faces 'Very Bad Future' if Allies Don't Help in Hormuz.**<sup>1</sup> It's incredible what's taking place just over a little place, and what's happening now between governments. Because it's making the separation greater. If it wasn't bad enough, when you think of what happened because of Greenland and the thinking that goes on in people's minds and how Europe felt about some of that, but now you get this and a war that started, an alignment between Israel and the United States and what they're doing to Iran and then this happens.

It says, "It's only appropriate that people who are the beneficiaries of the Strait will help to make sure that nothing bad happens there,' Trump told the FT, arguing that Europe and China depend heavily on Gulf oil. 'If there's no response or if it's a negative response I think it will be very bad for the future of NATO,' Trump said."

Now, this is something that's been happening anyway. NATO, they're not happy. We're not bound together very well, and the attitudes between governments, even within Europe is not good, but now, especially toward the United States, it just gets worse and worse and worse. And it's all for a purpose and by design because of something that God designed a long time ago, of how a lot of this is going to come to pass, that slowly but surely it's going to erode. And NATO is being questioned how to function, how should it function.

"Trump also criticized what he described as insufficient support from some partners. 'We have a thing called NATO...' Then he says, 'We've been very sweet. We didn't have to help them with Ukraine... But we helped them. Now we'll see if they help us,' he said." Now, that's putting on a lot of pressure in many ways. But in a lot of ways, there is truth in things that are said sometimes back and forth like this.

But what's happening with this? It's just causing a greater wedge to take place where Europe has already come to the understanding that if something really bad happens, will NATO really be there? Will the US really be there for us, type of thing. And so, that's why you have some in Europe that are really pressing

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<sup>1</sup> *Trump Warns NATO Faces "Very Bad Future" if Allies Don't Help in Hormuz: Reports.* Sputnik India, 16 Mar. 2026. Accessed 22 Mar. 2026. URL: <https://sputniknews.in/20260316/trump-warns-nato-faces-very-bad-future-if-allies-dont-help-in-hormuz-reports-10619049.html>

for, pushing for, if you will, some kind of military cohesion there that's separate from the United States, and they're slow in doing it. And there's a reason for all this but it comes to a point where finally they just decide, in a moment, in a flash and it's done, and some of the worst things in history begin.

When you talk about the Fifth Trumpet, by that time you're that far in and that takes place? We haven't seen the end of this separation but you can see a little here and a little there, and it just gets bigger and bigger and bigger. And it should stir us to realize we live in very dangerous times, physically and spiritually.

It says, "But we helped them. Now we'll see if they help us," he said. According to The Financial Times, Trump has urged countries including China, France, Japan, South Korea and the UK to join efforts to secure the shipping route through which roughly a fifth of the world's oil passes."

Another one here: **UK, Allies Refuse Trump Call to Send Warships as Strait of Hormuz Blocked.**<sup>2</sup>

So, decisions are being made, and we see this going back and forth, and the separation and NATO becoming weaker and weaker and weaker and less meaningful. It's kind of like the United Nations. What is it? Worthless. Meaningless. And NATO is headed in that direction as well.

Another one here: **Trump vows to 'take' Cuba as US oil embargo triggers power grid collapse.**<sup>3</sup> This is from Euronews. So, this is Europe reporting, keeping it alive, that "Look. Look what he's doing." Now, we already know this. We already know some of the things taking place. But they want to keep some of these things alive because, look what he did to Venezuela, look what he said about Greenland, and look what he's actually doing in Iran, and now it's Cuba is next. And who's going to be next after that?

Another article here: **Macron prepares France for 'an age of nuclear weapons' as Iran war rages.**<sup>4</sup>

This is, again, from France. It says, "A couple of days after the United States and Israel launched their assault on Iran, French President Emmanuel Macron announced on March 2 that France would bolster its nuclear arsenal and strengthen ties with fellow European Union countries. He called the policy 'forward deterrence.' With the speech, Macron demonstrated a show of strength in a rapidly changing world, where European allies are hesitant to rely on the US's nuclear protection."

So, before the Strait of Hormuz thing became an issue this was already starting. They see a need. They can't rely, they don't feel, on NATO, so we're not going to do this down there either. Because they've kind of already made a decision without coming right out and saying that it's not done. But that's what's

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<sup>2</sup> Orlova, Alisa. *UK, Allies Refuse Trump Call to Send Warships as Strait of Hormuz Blocked*. *Kyiv Post*, 16 Mar. 2026. Accessed 22 Mar. 2026. URL: <https://www.kyivpost.com/post/71973>

<sup>3</sup> De Santos Pascual, Juan Carlos, and AFP. *Trump Vows to "Take" Cuba as US Oil Embargo Triggers Power Grid Collapse*. *Euronews*, 17 Mar. 2026. Accessed 22 Mar. 2026. URL: <https://www.euronews.com/2026/03/17/trump-vows-to-take-cuba-as-us-oil-embargo-triggers-power-grid-collapse>

<sup>4</sup> *Macron Prepares France for "an Age of Nuclear Weapons" as Iran War Rages*. *Al Jazeera*, 17 Mar. 2026. Accessed 22 Mar. 2026. URL: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/3/17/macron-prepares-france-for-an-age-of-nuclear-weapons-as-iran-war-rages>

happening. It's like, "We're not going to send anything down there to that part of the world to fight this and engage in that because we're more concerned with our own security and the way we have to do it," but even though they're not doing a whole lot. So, he steps in and says this, and some other countries are saying some things. So, they realize they need some help with nuclear weapons in a way that they don't have to rely on the United States. That's what's actually being said.

"France currently has the fourth biggest nuclear arsenal in the world. 'What I want more than anything, as you will have understood, is for Europeans to regain control of their own destiny,' Macron said." They're being pushed in the corner to have to make decisions that they don't want, haven't wanted to make in times past, but now realize that they need to do something. Day late and a dollar short, but anyway.

"The declaration raises questions about Europe's strategic future. Some have described a watershed moment for European security, but the rhetoric is mainly a strong confirmation of France's longstanding nuclear policy, according to geopolitical analyst Gregoire Roos."

So again here, back and forth. But the reason I'm going through different articles like this at different times is to show from week to week or month to month how fast things are really changing and how fast we're headed toward a particular moment in time. And you don't know when the First Trumpet is going to sound, and how long it is going to be then... Because the first four really go together. They're all a result of the same events taking place at the same time. But it's the Fifth one when Europe finally does what they're going to do.

So, we're going to see things that we don't fully understand yet, we don't fully comprehend yet. But when they come about and when it's God's time, and they can happen any time, how much time is in between that and the Fifth Trumpet? We don't know. Weeks? Months? Years? We don't know.

Another one here: **US Intel alert: India-Pakistan ties pose nuclear conflict risk amid terrorism and regional tensions.**<sup>5</sup> So, they're back at it again. Like peace was really created there.

Another one: **Pakistan developing nuclear ballistic missile, US warns.**<sup>6</sup>

Going to go ahead and read this one here: **The bond market is flashing a signal not seen since before the 2008 crisis.**<sup>7</sup> "Troubling developments unfolded in the U.S. bond market on Thursday that had some investors drawing comparisons with the run-up to the 2008 financial crisis. The last time all three things

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<sup>5</sup> Sharma, Sheenu. *US Intel Alert: India-Pakistan Ties Pose Nuclear Conflict Risk Amid Terrorism and Regional Tensions*. **India TV News**, 19 Mar. 2026. Accessed 22 Mar. 2026. URL: <https://www.indiatvnews.com/news/world/us-intel-alert-india-pakistan-ties-pose-nuclear-conflict-risk-amid-terrorism-regional-tensions-pahalgam-terror-attack-us-intelligence-community-2026-03-19-1034269>

<sup>6</sup> De, Abhishek. *What Is the Nuclear Missile Pakistan Is Developing That US Has Warned About*. **India Today**, 19 Mar. 2026. Accessed 22 Mar. 2026. URL: <https://www.indiatoday.in/world/story/pakistan-nuclear-ballistic-missile-icbm-us-warns-india-threat-2884233-2026-03-19>

<sup>7</sup> *The Bond Market Is Flashing a Signal Not Seen Since Before the 2008 Crisis*. **MarketWatch** via **MSN**, 19 Mar. 2026. Accessed 22 Mar. 2026. URL: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/news/content/ar-AA1Z0IQA>

unfolded simultaneously was in the late spring of 2008, according to Bloomberg data. About four or five months later, Lehman Brothers collapsed, ushering in the most acute phase of the 2008 financial crisis. The S&P 500 declined 38.5% that year. Widespread mortgage defaults also resulted in many Americans losing their homes.”

You know, the reality is the world isn't very stable, and what happened in 2008, it never really became stable then by printing all that was printed. And we're far worse off today than we were back then. But to me, it's kind of an interesting thing to see this going along at the same time other things are happening in the rest of the world on a military scale, if you will, because they're all working together to collapse at the exact same time. God's orchestrating it. They're going to do it. There are things that people are going to do. He doesn't make them do it, but that's their nature, and that's what they're going to do because of their nature. And God just opens the door for them to do what they're going to do when the time comes, but He's the one that controls it, nevertheless, the timing.

Oh, this one here: **Trump calls NATO "cowards" over lack of support in Iran war.**<sup>8</sup> “President Donald Trump assailed NATO allies on Friday over their lack of support for the U.S.-Israel war against Iran, calling the longtime U.S. allies ‘cowards.’” Now, I don't want to get too involved in saying too much, but you know, depending on people's perspective, there are different things there as far as the mind is concerned and how people think. And this isn't a small thing. I can't blame him fully, because the reality is there should be a bond there as nations should work together to do something, that it's kind of insane to think that this shouldn't have been done, on a physical plane, as far as nations are concerned.

Because the reality is, they were receiving help from China to create or have ballistic missiles that can reach the United States. And if they have nuclear weapons at the same time – and their whole desire and whole teaching has been on a religious scale, on a religious plane, a fanatical religious plane is to destroy the Great Satan, and then the Little Satan. Amazing. This world's leaders sometimes it just boggles the mind...

It's like WWII, what happened before WWII, and the decisions different governments made. Totally inexcusable. It's one thing to know what we know and live in a different way toward people, but the world doesn't live that way, isn't like that, and governments can't act like that. And governments have to do and function in a certain way... Anyway.

“‘Without the U.S.A.,’ he said, ‘NATO IS A PAPER TIGER!’ Trump said in a social media post.” A lot of truth in that. Sad to say. Without the US backing, if it is NATO, but if it isn't NATO, then what is it? Well, it's going to have to be Europe, and that's what Europe is going to come to, “It's up to us.” And they turn against, of all things, this country. Incredible, to realize what's coming.

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<sup>8</sup> Chiacu, Doina. *Trump Calls NATO "Cowards" Over Lack of Support in Iran War*. Reuters, 20 Mar. 2026. Accessed 22 Mar. 2026. URL: <https://www.reuters.com/world/trump-calls-nato-cowards-over-lack-support-iran-war-2026-03-20>

“The U.S. president complained NATO countries did not want to join the fight against Iran, yet still complain about high oil prices. ‘Now that fight is Militarily WON, with very little danger for them, they complain about the high oil prices they are forced to pay, but don’t want to help open the Strait of Hormuz, a simple military maneuver that is the single reason for the high oil prices. So easy for them to do, with so little risk,’ he wrote. ‘COWARDS, and we will REMEMBER!’”

So, it isn’t being made stronger, it’s being made weaker. It’s going to make Europe a little stronger because they’re going to have to start using some of that iron at some point.

“Germany, Britain, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Japan, and Canada pledged in a joint statement on Thursday to join ‘appropriate efforts to ensure safe passage through the Strait.’ But German Chancellor Friedrich Merz made clear that this presupposed an end to combat.” So again, they have their own conditions for doing it and so forth.

But just throwing these things out there just so you can see what’s being said in the world, how they feel, why they feel the way they do, and why they’re learning to hate this country more and more and more. They are so sick and tired of being told what to do, they made their decision for the wrong reasons. But anyway.

One more: **Hungary’s Orbán accused of disloyalty and blackmail over Ukraine loan veto.**<sup>9</sup> So again, this battling taking place within Europe. It’s getting worse and worse.

“European Union leaders have accused Hungary’s Prime Minister Viktor Orbán of disloyalty and blackmail after he blocked a €90bn loan for Ukraine. ‘No oil = no money,’ Orbán said in a post on X after Thursday’s summit in Brussels during which he refused to lift his veto, citing a feud over a damaged pipeline that transports Russian oil to Hungary.”

“German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said Orbán’s actions amounted to ‘a gross act of disloyalty,’ while European Council head António Costa described them as tantamount to ‘blackmail.’ Orbán - who has maintained close ties with Russia since it...” I love how some news media put a little twist into things to set it in a way that they want it stated. They want him to look bad. There’s a reason for that. And so, they say that he has “close ties with Russia.” Well, he’s played in between, in a sense, of trying to keep peace with Russia and trying to keep peace with the rest of Europe. And who would want to be in that spot?

“...since it launched its full-scale invasion in Ukraine in 2022 - has made hostility towards Ukraine a key issue ahead of elections on 12 April.” Anyway.

So, every once in a while, reading some of these things to help us keep abreast of the reality we are seeing, prophecy coming to pass. We are witnessing things in an incredible way a little bit at a time, but

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<sup>9</sup> Davies, Alys. *Hungary’s Orbán Accused of Disloyalty and Blackmail Over Ukraine Loan Veto*. **BBC News**, 19 Mar. 2026. Accessed 22 Mar. 2026. URL: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cq6jrvqeejo>

being ramped up more and more because the Thunders are, at times, absolutely deafening. And I'm not even going into other areas. But because this is primarily the big one anyway, because it's leading up to the Trumpets. So, Thunders, powerful, mighty, and the Trumpets aren't far behind.