

# Post-Trump, Conservatives Brace for the End Times

"It's time for the church to wake up, put on the full armor of God, and prepare for what's ahead."



BY JONATHAN E. HENRY

**A**FTER 32 YEARS AS A MILITARY chaplain, U.S. Army Col. David J. Giammona (pictured above right) retired in June 2018.

In the months that followed, as he watched the eruption of chaos, economic turmoil, and occupation zones across the homeland, the husband and father of three experienced a sensation as terrible as it was familiar.

"I know what war feels like . . . and it feels just like this," Giammona, a Bronze Star recipient, told Newsmax recently in an exclusive interview. "You don't know about the future. You have anxiety, you have fear."

"And with all of that combined, you have to trust the Lord," he says, "and know that He's got your life in His hands."

He saw a radical brand of socialism emerging, led by New York Democratic Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

President Donald Trump was locked in a bitter impeachment struggle. Across America, a sort of lawless chaos seemed to be running unchecked.

Protesters were taking to the streets over allegations of wanton police violence. Occupation zones devoid of law enforcement sprang up. Mobs attacked and toppled historic statues. And no one, it seemed, was being held accountable for the lawless mayhem.

Then there was a record hurricane season. A plague of locusts in East Africa. There was an earthquake in Utah that rattled Salt Lake, while California was aflame with wildfires. Like a lot of Americans, he started to wonder what the heck was going on.

**"AND THEY GATHERED THEM TOGETHER IN THE PLACE CALLED IN HEBREW, ARMAGEDDON."**

— REVELATION 16:16

Then in January 2020, news arrived of a dangerous new variant of the SARS virus that had leaked out of Wuhan, China. Chinese officials were initially reluctant to admit the virus was human-to-human transmissible. But the mounting stacks of body bags strongly suggested otherwise.

When the lockdowns hit, the U.S. economy tanked. Millions lost their jobs almost overnight. Controversy erupted when the Trump administration relocated the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem. Social media was a battle zone patrolled by cancel-culture hotheads.

Giammona braced for what would come next. The sense of impending doom was strangely familiar.

He'd felt it at the Baghdad airport in Iraq when he came under sniper fire.

He'd felt it during a training exercise in Germany in the 1990s, when his Humvee was nearly flattened by a phalanx of tanks.

And he'd felt it in Saudi Arabia after being forced to take shelter following a reported SCUD missile launch.

Giammona concluded that while he'd retired from the service . . . his battle was just beginning.

As a chaplain ordained in the Assemblies of God denomination, Giammona immediately recognized that rather than a war of bullets and bombs, this would be a spiritual battle over truth and faith.

He also realized that the church, unlike the highly trained warriors he'd

ALL IMAGES COURTESY OF DAVID J. GIAMMONA



pastored in the military, was ill-prepared for the tribulations that are foretold in the end times prophecies in the Bible.

That realization helped spur Giammona to write his extraordinary new book, *The Military Guide to Armageddon: Battle-Tested Strategies to Prepare Your Life and Soul for the End Times*.

Dr. Robert Jeffress, pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas, hails the book as a “deep, riveting journey into preparing for the perilous world of the end times.”

And Rabbi Jonathan Bernis of Jewish Voice Ministries International calls it “a powerful spiritual preparation manual that unlocks for all of us how we should live in the last days. It is time for the church to wake up, put on the full armor of God, and prepare for what’s ahead.”

Giammona’s mission: to help believers prepare for the end times and Armageddon. And he brings a systematic, military approach to doing it.

“The church is not prepared,” the former military chaplain declares

flatly. “Pastors are not preparing their people for what is happening and what is about to happen. When you don’t do that, when you don’t face reality, then you’re really going to be in a world of hurt.”

Has the countdown to Armageddon begun?

There’s growing evidence the triple whammy of economic disruption, pandemic-related anxiety, and fallout from the November election are cranking up talk of the end times.

Pollster McLaughlin & Associates surveyed Americans last year and found 44 percent of them viewed the pandemic and subsequent economic meltdown as either a wake-up call to renew one’s commitment to faith, or as an outright sign of God’s judgment.

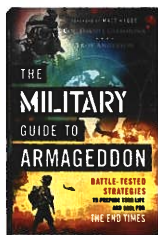
Among evangelical pastors, the talk of a Second Coming is even stronger. A survey of 1,000 senior pastors early last year by LifeWay Research found 90 percent believe current events suggest the Day of Reckoning may be closer than many recognize.

Bestselling author, editor, and longtime Newsmax faith contributor Troy Anderson, who co-authored *The Military Guide to Armageddon*, tells Newsmax: “The consensus among faith leaders is that yes, we are moving into these end times events.

“I interviewed Rev. Billy Graham several years ago, and he told me that signs of the end of the age are converging for the first time since Jesus made those predictions.”

In some respects, their book is a thinking man’s guide to preparing body, soul, and the church for Armageddon.

The authors aim for a balance between strategy and tactics, offering both spiritual guidance and practical tips for Christians who, in light of re-



## TOP EVANGELICAL:

# ‘This Is the Most Apocalyptic Thing That Has Ever Happened’

**E**vangelical megachurch pastor Dr. David Jeremiah, one of the faith leaders who served as an informal religious adviser to President Trump, told his congregation last year that the tribulation and pestilence prophesied in the end times are “way worse” than the current pandemic.

His sermon did not predict the end times will soon arrive. But he did say the pandemic offers valuable lessons for how people should live today.

“Is this a sign of the Second Coming of Christ?” Jeremiah asked. “I cannot say with any sense of certainty that it is. But neither can I say with any sense of certainty that it is not...”

“Let’s face it: This whole pandemic thing feels like something we have read in the Bible. Or to put it another way, this is the most apocalyptic thing that has ever happened to us...”

“No matter who we are, or what we do, or how much money we have, we are all vulnerable to the super plagues.

“This ought to humble us all. It ought to make us all realize how dependent upon God we really are.

“In many ways, I believe we have come to a good place. If you’ll listen to this verse, maybe you’ll agree with me. Here is what God says, here’s what the Bible says.

“This is I Peter 5:5: ‘God resists the proud, but He gives grace to the humble.’

“Perhaps before this is over ... we’ll be a nation on our knees.

“And if we are, we will be in a better place than when we entered this virus.” — J.E.H.

SOURCE: Excerpts from sermon of Dr. David Jeremiah, founder of Turning Point Radio and Television, March 23, 2020: “Is the Coronavirus in Biblical Prophecy?”





cent events, may be starting to wonder if the prepper community wasn't right all along.

Each chapter ends with helpful takeaways and practical applications. The chapter on bolstering the church's readiness, for example, ends with three sets of guidelines or principles covering military readiness, individual readiness, and spiritual exercises.

Giammona says: "We wanted to include some of the physical preparations because we're human beings and we're getting hit with natural disasters

**IMPENDING DOOM** Col. David J. Giammona served 32 years as an Army chaplain, including tours in Germany and the Middle East. After his retirement in 2018 he returned home — and found himself on a different kind of battlefield.

all the time on the planet. So it makes sense, from an army perspective, to be logistically prepared."

The appendix, for example, contains a military-style, five-page checklist that covers just about everything you'll need, including para cord, multi-tools, and solar-powered generators.

But the book is even more focused on preparing believers to win on a spiritual battlefield. Toward that end,

they're especially sensitive to the growing concerns among believers that our technologies may be spiraling out of control.

Artificial intelligence, tracking technology, and biotech could become dangerous weapons in the hands of a future anti-Christ.

"That is what the devil wants," says Giammona. "He wants disbelief in a personal devil and demonic beings. And he wants us to look at everything in a scientific, rational worldview — but there are a lot of things you can't explain in a scientific, rational worldview."



ANDERSON

Anderson and Giammona say getting battle-ready for the end times is gaining momentum as a social movement, at least among evangelical Christians.

"The left is going farther and farther left every day," says Giammona. "That's one reason evangelicals wanted Trump to continue as president, because they know what's coming . . . socialism, communism.

"In all the -isms, people are saying, 'We want a fair share of the economy, the marketplace, everyone should be equal.'

"But what they don't realize is, if you look at history, socialism never worked because of man's greed."

With that, he offers a prophecy of his own.

"There's going to be a few at the top who control all the wealth," he predicts. "Everybody else is going to be scrambling for whatever crumbs are left." □

## SIGNS OF THE TIMES:

# 97% of Pastors Anticipate Christ's Return

**A**re the tumultuous events that battered the nation and the world a sign that the biblical prophecies known as the end times are at hand?

A survey of 1,000 pastors of evangelical and historically Black churches indicates they believe they are.

About 90 percent of them said some current events do appear to be lining up with what Jesus said would occur shortly before His return to Earth.

And 97 percent of the pastors said they believe Jesus will literally and personally return in a Second Coming.

Those results from a survey taken in the early months of the pandemic:

## SIGNS OF JESUS' RETURN?

Are any of these types of current events "birth pains" that Jesus was referring to when he was asked by his disciples when he would return?

*Among pastors at evangelical and historically Black churches*

Rise of false prophets and false teachings	83%
Love of many believers growing cold	81%
Traditional morals becoming less accepted	79%
Wars and national conflicts	78%
Earthquakes and other natural disasters	76%
The number of people abandoning their Christian faith	75%
Famines	70%
Anti-Semitism toward Jewish people worldwide	63%
None of these	11%

NOTES: Respondents could select more than one answer, 1% said not sure. LifeWayResearch.com