

Chapter 12

Robert Jeffress: A Voice Warning of Impending Judgment

Now as for you, son of man, I have appointed you a watchman . . . so you will hear a message from My mouth and give them warning from Me. — Ezekiel 33:7

Don Wildmon often bemoaned the fact that most pulpits in America are silent about our nation’s moral problems — and that has certainly been true. But there have been exceptions over the years, like pastors Erwin Lutzer and David Jeremiah. Robert Jeffress, pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas, is another one of the exceptions. He has never feared to tread — and tread boldly — where few pastors have been willing to go.

I often think of him as the “Harry Truman of American pastors” because, like President Truman, he spits words like bullets and seems to have no concern about who might be offended. To him, the truths of God’s Word are more important than hurt feelings.

Taking a Stand for Righteousness

Jeffress came to national attention in 1998 while serving as the pastor of First Baptist Church in Wichita Falls, Texas. He was outraged when the city’s library decided to provide two books about children with homosexual parents, trying to present such a family as “normal.” When the library refused to remove the books, Jeffress checked them out, refused to return them, and paid a fine to cover the cost.¹ Like Don Wildmon’s decision to call on people to turn off TV for a week, Jeffress’ action caught the attention of the media, and overnight he was being featured in national newscasts.



Jeffress appears frequently on Fox News as a biblical commentator on national and international news events.
(www.outsidethebeltway.com)

In the following years Jeffress became known for his bold, biblical sermons dealing with hot-button moral issues like homosexual activity and abortion. In 2006 an organization called Vision America gave him their distinguished Daniel Award “for steadfast commitment and boldness in proclaiming the uncompromising Word of God.”²

Communicating Effectively

One very interesting thing about Jeffress is that he understands how the media works, and he makes the most of it. Thus, whereas his more than 20 books contain very thoughtful, in-depth discussions of the moral issues afflicting our nation, when it comes to being interviewed on radio or television, Jeffress always speaks in short, savvy and colorful phrases. He does this because he knows that the broadcast media thrive on “sound bites.”

Consider, for example, the sound bites he has delivered on the following topics:

- **Homosexuality** — “Gay is not okay. What homosexuals do is filthy. It is so degrading that it is beyond description. And it is their filthy behavior that explains why they are so much more prone to disease.”³
- **Same-Sex Marriage** — “Such marriages are counterfeit.”⁴
- **Islam** — “Islam is a false religion that will lead you to hell. It is based on a false book that is based on a fraud. It was founded by a false prophet who was leading people away instead of to the one true God.”⁵
- **Judaism** — “The three greatest Jews in the New Testament — Peter, Paul and Jesus — all said Judaism won’t do it, it’s faith in Jesus Christ.”⁶
- **Roman Catholicism** — “It is the Satanic result of Babylonian mystery religion.”⁷
- **Mormonism** — “It is a heresy from the pit of Hell.”⁸
- **Obama** — “President Obama is not the Antichrist. But what I am saying is this: the course he is choosing to lead our nation is paving the way for the future reign of the Antichrist.”⁹
- **Spineless Pastors** — “Wimpy pastors produce wimpy Christians — and that is why we are losing this culture war.”¹⁰

The Man

Who is this sharp-tongue prophetic spokesman and defender of the faith?

Robert Jeffress was born in 1955 in Dallas and grew up in First Baptist Church under the tutelage of its renowned pastor, Dr. W. A. Criswell. It’s the church where he was baptized, married, ordained and preached his first Sunday sermon. It’s also where he got his first job out of college as a youth pastor.¹¹

At Criswell’s memorial service in 2002, Jeffress said the pastor had taught him “to always work hard” and “to know the Bible as thoroughly as a doctor knows medicine and a lawyer knows law.”¹² In an interview in 2012, Jeffress revealed that Criswell had once told him, “Robert, I want you to get to know every square inch of this church . . . because one day it will be yours.”¹³

Jeffress got his undergraduate degree from Baylor University in Waco, Texas. He earned his seminary degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, Texas. His graduate degrees, including his doctorate, were earned from Dallas Theological Seminary. He is married to his childhood sweetheart, Amy, and they are the parents of two daughters.¹⁴

Those who have testified about his childhood say that he was characterized by a sense of certitude from the moment he was born. He was always certain about God, the Bible, Jesus and his salvation. He seemed never to have any doubts.¹⁵ His sister once said, “It’s like he came into this world as a little adult.”¹⁶

His first pastorate was in East Texas. In 1992 he became pastor of First Baptist Church in Wichita Falls, Texas where he served for 15 years. Criswell’s prophecy concerning Jeffress was fulfilled in 2007 when he was called to become the pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas. At the time, the church was in decline, but Jeffress quickly revitalized it with his passionate biblical preaching, his controversial stands for moral righteousness, and a highly imaginative and bold \$128 million replacement of most of the church’s facilities.

Jeffress began speaking prophetically about our nation in 2012 with the publication of his book, *Twilight’s Last Gleaming*.¹⁷ In 2013 he was invited to be the keynote speaker at the annual Bible conference sponsored by Lamb & Lion Ministries. At that conference, he presented a condensed version of the thesis of his book. An edited version is presented below.¹⁸



Jeffress was featured on the cover of *D Magazine* in January 2012. (www.dmagazine.com)

The Implosion of America

Robert Jeffress

I believe America’s collapse is inevitable.

I came to understand why this is true just a couple years ago when we were in the midst of preparing for the building of our new church campus. We had to first of all get rid of five of our buildings, consisting of about 600,000 square feet in the middle of downtown Dallas. And so the question arose: How do you get rid of that many buildings in the middle of downtown Dallas without bringing down the surrounding skyscrapers?

The demolition people met with me, and they said the best way to achieve this is through an implosion. And they explained to me what they were going to do. They said, “We’re going to take 200 pounds of dynamite and attach it to key structural supports within those five buildings. We will then explode the dynamite, there will be a pause, and then the law of physics will take over. Without those foundational supports, the buildings will fall in on themselves under their own weight.” I said, “Well, that sounds pretty good to me. Let’s do it.”

And so, on a brisk October morning in 2010, they closed downtown Dallas. The Mayor and I and our building committee chairman were on a nearby roof top, along with all of the media. CNN, Fox News, and all the local media were there to cover the implosion of our buildings. This was going out live on Fox and Friends and other media outlets around the world.

We did the countdown, 5-4-3-2-1. The Mayor and I pressed the ceremonial red button, and in the next block we heard the explosions going off just like they predicted. And those explosions were followed by nothing. Absolutely nothing! I cannot begin to tell you what all went through my mind over those next few seconds. I began to think, “Who am I going to fire first?” I could just see this scene being replayed endlessly on YouTube, “Pastor’s Implosion a Dud.” I mean it seemed like forever. But you see, I had forgotten what the demolition people told me. They had told me there was going to be a pause after those explosions.

And suddenly, without any warning, I heard a sound that could only be compared to standing in front of a jet engine. The roar increased in volume as we watched those once mighty buildings fall in on themselves, and within 30 seconds, they were reduced to nothing more than a plume of debris-filled dust.

I learned something that morning about implosions. They begin with a series of seemingly unrelated explosions, followed by a pause, and then a sudden collapse.

Four Explosive Decisions

Ladies and gentlemen, over the last 50 years our Supreme Court has made four explosive decisions that have so weakened the moral and spiritual structure and foundation of our country that our inevitable collapse is certain. Right now we're simply living between that time of the explosions that have weakened our basic foundation, and the coming implosion.

These four decisions have changed the direction of our country more than any congressional mandate and more than any executive order from the President of the United States. What are those four decisions?

Explosion Number One

Decision number one — I call it explosion number one — was the Supreme Court case in 1962 of *Engel v. Vitale*. This is the case that removed the saying of a prayer in the public schools.

A simple 22-word voluntary prayer was deemed unconstitutional. And of course, it is from that decision that all of the other court decisions cascaded concerning prayer, showing government is not neutral toward religion, but rather is hostile toward it. And government is especially hostile toward the Christian religion.

Explosion Number Two

From that decision eventually came the decision in 1980 of *Stone v. Graham* which stopped the posting of the Ten Commandments in public schools. Specifically, that case came out of the public schools of Kentucky where copies of the Ten Commandments were posted on the school walls.

And what was the Court's reasoning for removing the Ten Commandments from our schools? If I were to paraphrase this for you, you would think I was making it up. So I want to read to you the Supreme Court's decision and their reasoning for removing the posting of the Ten Commandments. The Court said:

If the posted copies of the Ten Commandments are to have any effect at all, it will induce the school children to read, meditate upon, perhaps venerate and obey the Commandments. This is not a permissible state objective under the establishment clause of the First Amendment.

In other words, if we post the Ten Commandments, children may actually read, venerate and, heaven forbid, obey them!

Now, even if the Supreme Court had ruled correctly, that doesn't change God's law. You see, God's law never changes. But the fact is the Supreme Court did not rule correctly. Consider this — 118 years earlier the Supreme Court had said in the case of *Vidal v. Girard's Executors*:

Why may not the Bible, especially the New Testament without note or comment be read and taught as a divine revelation in the [schools] — its general precepts expounded, its evidences explained, and its glorious principle of morality inculcated? Where can the purest principles of morality be learned so clearly, or so

perfectly as from the New Testament?

The Meaning of the First Amendment

Now you have to ask yourself the question, “What’s changed?” The Constitution hasn’t changed. What has changed is our culture. We have allowed the liberal activists to pervert the meaning of the First Amendment. Let’s be clear about what the First Amendment says and what it doesn’t say.

The First Amendment, commonly known as the establishment clause, says, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” That Amendment simply says Congress cannot establish a state church and it cannot prohibit the free exercise of religion. And yet we have people who have perverted that into meaning that there is some imaginary freedom *from* religion that is found in the Constitution.

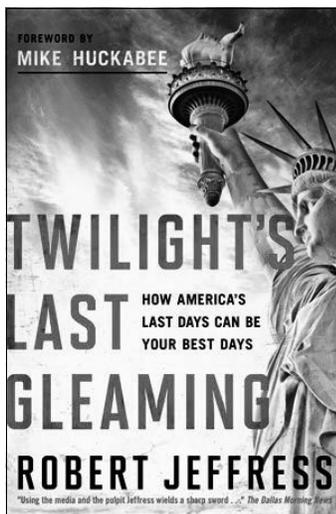
Did you notice here in our metroplex, just a couple of weeks ago, that a Joshua High School student who was valedictorian of his class dared to violate the school’s regulation and mentioned Jesus Christ in his speech? He was threatened with having his career at the Naval Academy ruined because he did such a thing! And the public school district lawyer said this: “We have to balance this student’s right and freedom of religion with other students’ freedom from religion.”

Where is that in the Constitution? There is no constitutional guarantee that somebody doesn’t have to listen to a prayer at a graduation ceremony or see a nativity in the public square, or look at the Ten Commandments in the courthouse. That is nowhere in the Constitution. What the Constitution says is everyone is free to practice his or her religion.

Explosion Number Three

Explosive decision number three was rooted right here in the Dallas-Ft. Worth Metroplex. It was the 1973 decision in the case of *Roe vs. Wade*. It is the decision that has resulted now in the murder of over 50 million children in the womb.

By the way, whenever I am on television talking about this, I never allow the phrase to be used, “a woman’s right to choose” without completing the sentence: “It is a woman’s right to choose to murder her child.” Don’t let anybody else get by without completing that full sentence. That’s what this is about. And that is what *Roe vs. Wade* has done. It has sanctioned the killing of unborn children . . .



In my book, *Twilight’s Last Gleaming*, I cited a study that says that if the 50 million children who have been killed in the last 50 years had been allowed to live and grow up and become productive citizens, they would have added anywhere from 35 to 70 trillion dollars to our gross national product. If those 50 million children had been allowed to grow up and live and contribute to society, there would be no Social Security crisis. There would be no Medicare crisis. They would have been paying into the system. You cannot slaughter 20% of your population, no nation can, without severe economic repercussions.

Ladies and gentlemen, the economic repercussions of abortion pale in significance to the most heinous and disastrous result of abortion, and that is the certainty of God’s judgment. All you have to do is look at history and see how God has dealt with nations that kill their children. In the Old Testament God raised up the Assyrians and the Babylonians to judge Israel for participating in child sacrifice. During the Second World War God raised up the allied forces to crush Nazi Germany for taking children to the gas chambers by the train loads.

Looking at history, does anybody have to wonder how God is going to deal with a nation like ours that sanctions the killing of children? . . .

Explosion Number Four

The fourth explosive decision was *Lawrence and Garner vs. the State of Texas* in 2003. This is the Supreme Court decision that struck down our state's anti-sodomy laws. It was the beginning of a domino effect that we see continuing today.

What is interesting is in that decision in 2003 Justice Scalia at that time said, "This reasoning leaves on pretty shaky ground the state laws limiting marriage to opposite-sex couples." Justice Scalia was being prophetic. In fact it was the reasoning of that court in 2003 that led to the recent decision that struck down a part of the Defense of Marriage Act.

What you need to understand is that for 226 years our judiciary has understood that the relationship between a man and woman is what constitutes marriage, and it is the bedrock of social order. James Kent, who served as Chief Justice of the [New York] Supreme Court, wrote in his commentary on American Law:

The primary and most important of the domestic relations is that of husband and wife. It has its foundation in nature and is the only relation by which Providence has permitted the continuance of the human race . . .

What we saw in the recent DOMA decision is the Supreme Court caving in to political correctness. Now you know, people say — even Christians — "Well so what? What harm is it to me that homosexuals want to get married? How does that hurt me?" Well, first of all it's not all about you and me, it is about society. But the fact is it does harm society.

The Hoover Institute has done long-term studies on Scandinavian countries that legalized same-sex marriage. Do you know what they found? They found that in countries that legalize same-sex marriage the rate of heterosexual marriage drops precipitously. And the reason is obvious: If marriage becomes anything you want it to be, why bother to get married at all? It was reported last week that our marriage rate here in the United States has dropped to the lowest level it has been in a century. And so you create tremendous instability in society when you allow that to happen . . .

God knew what He was doing when He designed the family. And ladies and gentlemen, even though Supreme Court opinions change, even though culture changes, God's Word never changes. He is the one who designed marriage and He knows how it best operates.

Now my point in citing these four cases is simply this: no nation that outlaws the acknowledgment of God in the public square, that sanctions the killing of unborn children and destroys the most basic unit of society, the family — no such nation can survive. The explosions have already occurred. The implosion is coming. We are simply living in the in-between-time.

The Christian Response

Now the question is, "How are we as Christians to respond to all this?" I want to suggest to you that we turn to the words of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who told us exactly how we are to respond to a decaying culture. In Matthew 5:13 Jesus said:

You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt has become tasteless how will it be made salty again? It is good for nothing anymore except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

Jesus said our first responsibility as believers is to act as salt. Do you know that in Jesus' day salt was a preservative? In the day before refrigerators, salt was the way to delay the decay of the meat. What salt did was simply give the meat a little longer shelf life. Eventually the meat would rot and would have to be discarded. The salt delayed that process . . .

What I believe Jesus is saying to us is, "We're not going to prevent the destruction of America, but we can delay it so we have more opportunity to share the Gospel." I therefore believe God has called us as Christians to stand up and push back against the tide of evil and immorality that is sweeping our country.

A Call for Christian Courage

I tell you, I am sick and tired of these wimpy Christians who mask their timidity and lack of courage with some sort of pseudo-spirituality that says, "Well, you know, we're just not citizens of this world, we are citizens of Heaven. And you know, we just need to let the world take its course."

Look, God never encouraged us to engage in silo-spirituality — to separate our faith from the rest of what's happening in this world. The fact is there are a lot of people in your church right now, perhaps even your pastor, who think for a Christian to use his faith to try to influence other people or unbelievers, or the course of this nation, well that's un-American, un-Christian and it may be illegal.

Listen, Jesus Christ is not just Lord of the Church, He is Lord over all creation. Jesus isn't just interested in religious people and religious institutions, Jesus is interested in every institution, and He's interested in government as well. Whenever you say that God doesn't want us to influence our culture, just start looking at the Bible itself. Look at men of God like Jonah, and David, and Jeremiah, and Isaiah, and in the New Testament, men like John the Baptist.

When you look at the ministries of those men, you will see that they didn't just preach to themselves. Nor did they just preach to God's own people. These men of God were willing to stand up in an ungodly culture and confront ungodly leaders and say without stuttering or stammering, "Thus saith the Lord." We need men of God like that today to do the same. We need men of God who will stand up and say compassionately yet courageously, "Abortion is murder." "Homosexuality is a perversion of God's plan for human sexuality." And "God will reject any nation that rejects Him."

You know, when you say that Christians shouldn't try to influence society, you are completely negating Jesus' words when He said, "You are the salt of the earth." How do we influence the world? How do we push back against immorality? It is by engaging in that dirty, filthy word called politics.

Now you know I hear this all the time: "Christians shouldn't get involved in politics." Do you know what the word politics means? The word means to influence, to control. When you say Christians shouldn't get involved in politics what you are saying is that Christians shouldn't try to influence the society in which they live. Can anybody say that with a straight face and believe it?

Christians and Politics

Let me ask you three questions: Do you believe that God cares about 50 million children being murdered in the womb? Do you think God has any opinion about that? Do you think that God cares about the rampant immorality that is sweeping our land? Do you think that God cares at all about His name being outlawed from mention in the public square? If you've answered yes, you have just explained why Christians ought to be involved in politics.

You see, in the Old Testament times it was the king who determined the spiritual direction of

the nation. If he was a righteous king, God blessed the nation. If he was an unrighteous king, God cursed the nation. But as John Jay, the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, said, "God has given us the privilege of selecting our leaders. And it is the duty and preference of Christians to prefer and select Christians as their leaders."

Every time I use that quote the liberals go crazy, but those were the words of the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. It is our duty to prefer and select Christians as our leaders. Every time you go into the voting booth, you are either casting a vote for righteousness or for unrighteousness. And if we're going to push back against this evil we have to get involved — not to save America because we are not going to save America. But we can delay our nation's collapse if we get involved.

Why Push Back?

The reason we want to buy more time for America is so we as Christians can fulfill our ultimate calling as believers, as stated by Jesus in Matthew 5:14 — "You are the light of the world."

Listen, God has not called us to save America. God has called us to save Americans from the coming judgment of God. The only way that can happen is by introducing them to a personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The reason we want to buy time for our culture is so that we have the opportunity to do just that . . .

A Fundamental Principle About Light

You know why Paul said we could rejoice in the culture in which we are living, even though it may be very wicked? He understood a very simple principle — the darker the background, the brighter the light.

I experienced an illustration of that not long ago. I was helping my younger daughter celebrate a special occasion in her life. I said, "Dorothy, I'll take you to the mall and get you anything you want." Now when I said, "anything you want," I had in mind going to a shop like Forever 21 and getting a \$20 or \$30 dress. So, we go over to North Park Shopping Center and she leads me right past Forever 21 and right into a jewelry store! We're standing there in front of the counter, and the salesman approaches, looks at my daughter and says, "Good to see you again." At that moment, I knew I'd been had! He said, "Would you like to look at that ring you were looking at yesterday?" She said, "Yes."

So he went back and brought forth a little tray with different rings on it and picked out the one she had been looking at. Before he sat it down on the plexiglass counter he took a piece of black velvet, spread it out on the counter and then took that ring and plopped it right in the center of the black velvet. The contrast between that black velvet and the light emitting from the ring was so stark it almost blinded me to the price, not quite, but it almost did. You see, that salesman understood a fundamental principle: the darker the background, the brighter the light.

The Opportunity Provided by Darkness

Listen, we are living in dark days today, no doubt about it. But the more hopeless this world becomes the brighter the hope of Jesus Christ shines.

So which is it? Are we to be salt? Are we to get involved in politics and try to push back against evil? Or, are we to be light involved in evangelism and sharing the Gospel? It's not an either-or answer. It is both-and. God has called us to do both. He has called us to be balanced. But please don't equate that word balanced with passive. This is not time for Christians living in America to be passive.

I'm reminded of the words of William Watkins in his book, *The New Absolutes*. He wrote:

As Christians we must reject the new tolerance and become a people marked by intolerance. Not an intolerance that unleashes hate upon people. But an intolerance that is unwilling to allow error to masquerade as truth any longer. An intolerance that is willing to stand up and call evil, evil and good, good.

May God grant us the courage to do just that.

An Additional Explosion

Since this speech was delivered in 2013, the Supreme Court of the United States has set off an additional explosion — its abominable decision in June 2015 to legalize same-sex marriage, making our nation’s implosion even more certain and more imminent.

It was a despicable day in American history when President Obama decided to celebrate this court decision by lighting up the White House in the colors of the Sexual Perversion Movement.

A Great Opportunity

In January of 2017 Jeffress was granted the high honor of being invited to deliver the inauguration sermon to President-elect Trump and his family and staff at St. John’s Episcopal Church, located across the street from the White House.

The sermon was short and to the point. Jeffress focused on the story of Nehemiah rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, and he commented wryly at the beginning, “You see, God is *not* against wall building.”¹⁹ Jeffress emphasized three points in his sermon. First, he assured Trump that he would face major criticisms as any “true leader” does because there are only three ways to avoid criticism: “do nothing, say nothing and be nothing.” He encouraged Trump to not allow his critics to distract him.²⁰

Second, Jeffress stressed that Nehemiah refused to allow setbacks to stop him. As with criticism, Jeffress assured Trump he would suffer many setbacks, and he encouraged him not to allow them to discourage or stop him.²¹

Third, Jeffress underlined the fact that Nehemiah sought God’s help to empower him. In like manner, Jeffress told Trump that he would never be able to accomplish his goals in his own power or with his own natural abilities. Rather, he would “need God’s supernatural power.”²²

Jeffress concluded his sermon by reminding Trump of two quotations — one from Ronald Reagan and the other from the Bible. The Reagan quote was taken from a speech of his to the Republican National Convention in Dallas in 1984. He said: “America needs God more than God needs America. If we ever forget that we are ‘one nation under God,’ then we will be a nation gone under.”

The Scripture quote was taken from Psalm 33:12:

Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD.