

MIQDASH BETHEL COVENANT ASSEMBLY

Pearl River, Louisiana

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March 27, 2026

Pastor Mark Burns

Harvest Praise & Worship Center

Easley, South Carolina

Also: The NOW Television Network

Dear Pastor Burns,

I write to you as one man of covenant calling to another. I am not your political opponent. I have no interest in the performance of partisan combat, and I have no media platform seeking your attention. I am an elder and founder of a small covenant assembly in Pearl River, Louisiana — a former New Orleans firefighter, retired early from an on-the-job injury, a blues guitarist, and a man who has spent the better part of his adult life studying and teaching the Torah of **Yahweh (יהוה)** as the living foundation of covenant governance for all peoples.

I have watched your ministry with genuine interest over the years. I noted your January 2026 Interfaith Conference at the Capitol — *United in Liberty: The Rise of Spiritual Diplomats* — and I received your opening statement there, that the most important stance is not left or right but standing for human rights, as a word worthy of a covenant man. I am holding you to it in this letter.

I also write to you as the son of a soldier. My father was Sergeant First Class Terry Gilman Arcemont. He was awarded the Purple Heart, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, and the Oak Leaf Cluster. He served multiple tours in Vietnam. He was killed in action on the Imjin River in South Korea in 1967. I never knew him. My family paid the price that war extracts from those who are left behind — the price that no political speech and no pastoral declaration of "spiritual obligation" ever has to pay personally.

I tell you this not to claim superior grief. I tell you this because when a man of God stands before a political conference and declares that bombing a nation is a spiritual obligation, the weight of that declaration falls — not on the pastor, not on the president, not on the defense secretary — but on the sons and daughters who climb into those aircraft, and on the families who wait. Thirteen American service members have already been killed in this operation as of this writing. Thirteen families now carry what my family carried. I do not speak about war from a distance, Pastor Burns. I speak from the inside of what it costs.

I am writing to formally and directly challenge your statement at CPAC that President Trump has a "spiritual obligation" to bomb Iran.

That is a prophetic claim. It invokes the authority of **Yahweh** over an act of war that has already taken lives and will take more. The Torah of **Yahweh** in **Devarim (Deuteronomy) 18:20–22** is unambiguous about the standard for such claims: if the prophet speaks presumptuously in the Name of **Yahweh** and the outcome does not confirm the word, the people are not to fear or follow that word. I am not calling for your harm. I am calling for your accountability to the standard you yourself invoke when you call yourself a man of the Spirit.

Your analogy — that bombing Iran is like stopping a rape — breaks apart on its own terms. You yourself stated at CPAC that there are

"millions of innocent Iranians."

Those millions of innocent Iranians are being bombed. The analogy does not survive its own premises. And the Torah standard for a declaration of war requires far more than a

pastoral analogy before a political conference. It requires independent evidentiary witness, a proper hearing, and a process that no government has conducted here.

I have also taken serious note of Secretary Hegseth's Crusader theological framework — the *Deus Vult* tattoo, the defense of the medieval Crusades, the Pentagon worship services conducted in the name of one faith tradition while men and women of every faith and no faith serve under his command. The Crusades are not a covenant legacy, Pastor Burns. They are a documented record of mass violence against Jewish populations, Muslim populations, and Eastern Christian populations. Elevating Crusader imagery to the level of military doctrine — in a nation armed with nuclear weapons — is not a spiritual inheritance. It is a covenant danger of the first order.

The reports coming from active military installations — that commanders are invoking the Book of Revelation and telling troops that President Trump has been anointed by Jesus to trigger Armageddon — these reports demand your public response. You are the president's personal pastor. You speak to him weekly by your own account. You carry influence in that orbit that most men of God do not. That influence is a covenant stewardship, not a political platform. What is being done with the Name of **Yahweh** inside the military chain of command — if those reports are accurate — is not worship. It is the weaponization of sacred language to send human beings into combat for an eschatological agenda that serves the theological preferences of a narrow political faction, not the covenant will of the living **Elohim (אֱלֹהִים)** who calls all peoples — including the people of Iran — His own.

Pastor Burns, I am not writing to condemn you. I am writing to engage you — covenant man to covenant man.

You called yourself a Spiritual Diplomat. I am asking you to live that title in the most demanding moment it has ever faced. Diplomacy — covenant diplomacy — requires the courage to speak differently than the room you are standing in. At CPAC you spoke to the room. I am asking you to step outside it.

Attached to this letter is a formal covenant witness document I have prepared and released to the public record. It is addressed to you, to Secretary Hegseth, to Tucker Carlson, and to the three-tradition audience of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. It is thorough. It is grounded exclusively in the Tanakh. It does not rely on political argument. It applies the covenant standard of witness to every claim being made in the public square about this war, and it offers the Torah's own vision — **Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 19:24–25** — of a day when Israel, Egypt, and Assyria are all called blessed together by **Yahweh**. That vision is not a political fantasy. It is the declared word of the covenant.

I invite your response. I invite dialogue. I invite you to bring the full weight of your platform and your access to the most powerful office in the world to bear — not on justifying this war — but on building the covenant peace process that could actually end it, protect the millions of innocent Iranians you yourself named, and honor the sacrifice of every service member whose family is now carrying what mine has carried since 1967.

The covenant is large enough for this conversation. I am asking whether you are.

In covenant faithfulness and sober witness,

Elder Kepha Arcemont, Founder

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*Enclosure: A Covenant Witness Against the Invocation of Prophetic War Theology
to Justify the Bombing of Iran — Miqdash Bethel Covenant Assembly, March 27, 2026*