

PASTOR OF WORLD OUTREACH CHURCH

ALLEN JACKSON

BIG
TROUBLE
AHEAD

A REAL PLAN *for* FLOURISHING

IN A TIME OF FEAR AND DECEPTION



A PDF COMPANION TO THE AUDIOBOOK

Big Trouble Ahead

© 2022 by Allen Jackson

All rights reserved. No portion of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, scanning, or other—except for brief quotations in critical reviews or articles, without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Published in Nashville, Tennessee, by Nelson Books, an imprint of Thomas Nelson. Nelson Books and Thomas Nelson are registered trademarks of HarperCollins Christian Publishing, Inc.

Published in association with Yates & Yates, www.yates2.com.

Thomas Nelson titles may be purchased in bulk for educational, business, fundraising, or sales promotional use. For information, please email SpecialMarkets@ThomasNelson.com.

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version[®], NIV[®]. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.[®] Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.Zondervan.com. The “NIV” and “New International Version” are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.[®]

Scripture quotations marked NASB are taken from the New American Standard Bible[®] (NASB). Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995, 2020 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. www.lockman.org

Scripture quotations marked NLT are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation. © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

Any internet addresses, phone numbers, or company or product information printed in this book are offered as a resource and are not intended in any way to be or to imply an endorsement by Thomas Nelson, nor does Thomas Nelson vouch for the existence, content, or services of these sites, phone numbers, companies, or products beyond the life of this book.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Jackson, Allen, 1958- author.

Title: Big trouble ahead : a real plan for flourishing in a time of fear and deception / Allen Jackson.

Description: Nashville, Tennessee : Thomas Nelson, [2022] | Summary: "The church in America is being shaken like never before, from rampant deception and lawlessness to intense cultural pressures to conform and compromise. Pastor Allen Jackson reveals a biblical perspective on the events unfolding in our nation, and shows readers how they can hold onto hope and flourish, even in the midst of the shaking"-- Provided by publisher.

Identifiers: LCCN 2022007561 (print) | LCCN 2022007562 (ebook) | ISBN 9781400217281 (pb) | ISBN 9781400217298 (epub) | ISBN 9781400217304 (Audiobook)

Subjects: LCSH: United States--Church history--21st century. | Christianity and culture--United States--History--21st century.

Classification: LCC BR526 .J323 2022 (print) | LCC BR526 (ebook) | DDC 277.308/3--dc23/eng/20220325

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2022007561>

LC ebook record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2022007562>

Printed in the United States of America

22 23 24 25 26 LSC 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

CHAPTER 1

OUR TRUST ERODED

SOME VITAL QUESTIONS

1. Am I awake and aware of what He is doing around me?
2. Are my eyes open to see Him? Am I listening for His voice?
3. Am I eager and prepared to participate when He invites me to join Him?
4. Am I standing my ground for Him where He has placed me?

CHAPTER 2

THE CHURCH SHAKEN AND CHURCH EXPOSED

WHAT ABOUT MY CHURCH... AND YOURS?

1. Are we excited about our relationship with Jesus and about serving Him? Can the world see our excitement?
2. Are we working hard on His behalf and persevering when we face trials and hardships?
3. Would you say that your church is spiritually hot, cold, or lukewarm?
4. Do we depend on our financial resources for our spiritual security?
5. Is the God of the Bible our sole authority? Or have we allowed any unbiblical philosophies to infiltrate our fellowship?

6. Do we tolerate any false teachers in our congregation, or do we work to convince them of the truth of the gospel? If they will not be convinced, what do we do?
7. Do we tolerate sexual immorality of any kind?
8. Do we avoid doing anything that might cause us to suffer for the name of Jesus?
9. Have we created a facade of spiritual activity to cover a spiritually dead congregation?
10. Are we taking advantage of every open door for evangelism?

CHAPTER 3

THE POWER OF ONE

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

1. David used one of the skills he had learned while defending a flock of sheep to defeat an enemy of God's people. What skills do you have that could be used to advance God's purposes on the earth?
2. Gideon felt insignificant and couldn't understand how God could use him, but he said yes to God's invitation and plan. Do you ever feel insignificant and unworthy of a role in God's kingdom? What has God said about your worth and your significance?
3. John the Baptist lived very simply in order to fulfill God's plan for him. Have you ever intentionally simplified your lifestyle in order to free up more time or resources for God's purposes?
4. Like Peter, you are in process and will make some mistakes. Have you invited God into your days and

asked Him to fill you with His Holy Spirit? Are you intentionally stretching your spiritual muscles and learning what it means to be used by Him?

5. Paul faced constant hardship and challenges during his years as an advocate for the Lord. What does that tell us we should expect in our assignment as ambassadors for Jesus of Nazareth?
6. Aquila and Priscilla were a married couple who worked and ministered together. If you are married, what example does this set for your life together as a couple?
7. God asked Noah to begin building a massive ark before anyone of his generation had seen a flood. Have you ever said yes to one of God's invitations when you didn't have all the details or it didn't seem logical in your eyes? What was the result?
8. Think about Peter stepping out of the boat and walking across the water to meet Jesus. Do you have the faith of Peter? Or do you have the faith of the men in the boat?

CHAPTER 5

INSIDE INFORMATION (A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW GIVES INSIGHT)

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

1. Which do you place more trust in—your smartphone or the Word of God?
2. Belief in God as the Creator is the first step of faith. Do you have a settled conviction that God created the world and everything in it? Do you believe that He will sustain it according to His plans and purposes?
3. Do you honor the Ten Commandments in your life and in your home? Are you filling your home with spiritual treasures?
4. Do you spend as much effort guarding your heart as you do protecting your possessions? Does the

Holy Spirit control your consumption of music and entertainment?

5. Have you allowed disappointment and discouragement to take up residence in your heart? If so, how can you see them through a proper spiritual perspective and make a conscious decision to choose joy?
6. Do you study the Bible as a scientist attempting to pick it apart or as a follower of Jesus seeking a transformed life?
7. Is your Bible a vital and necessary part of your daily routine? Do you have God's Word in your heart so that you can lean on it in times of trouble?

CHAPTER 8

GETTING READY

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

1. Is your faith in God something you inherited from your parents, or have you made it your own?
2. Have you allowed a hobby or pastime to encroach on your allegiance to the Lord?
3. Have you adopted any form or practice of a pagan religion and allowed it to creep into your spiritual life?
4. Do you find it easier to keep your faith in the realm of theory than to take it into the world and give it practical application?
5. Do you have a plan to shield yourself from the attacks of Satan, or do you play around with the world's temptations and hope for the best?
6. Do you have an action plan for pursuing holiness?
7. When you feel God's discipline, do you resent it or accept it and learn from it?

8. Are you burdened by the weight of unforgiveness, or have you chosen to forgive and set that load down?
9. Have you allowed your age to limit your responses to God's invitations?
10. Are you spiritually prepared to stay the course through a difficult season or assignment?