



SIGNS OF THE TIMES

News Articles for Episode 274

'Almost everything is ready for the Third Temple,' claims Israeli TV report about red heifers brought to Israel last year | All Israel News

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #third temple, #red heifer

Aug 8, 2023

Arrival of five red heifers continues to cause excitement and consternation in the Jewish state

Israel's TV Channel 12 news released an investigative report about the five red heifers that were brought to the Jewish state last September and the supposed “funneling” of government funds to construct the Third Temple.

Israeli journalist Omri Maniv, who has posted to social media multiple times about the [red heifers](#) and their [meaning](#), conducted the investigation.

Last month, the journalist [tweeted](#) about an experiment conducted by Bar Ilan University Prof. Zohar Amar who attempted to determine how many people could be ritually purified by one red heifer.

In the study, Prof. Amar said that one red heifer would provide enough ashes to purify 660 billion purifications.

Maniv argued that the government has shifted funds from other accounts for the purpose of preparing for the purification rituals and possibly the Third Temple. Many rabbis have forbidden their followers from going up to the Temple Mount because they are not in a state of ritual purity.

He also argues that the funds are being shifted quietly to not raise tensions internally and with the Arab population.

Just two weeks ago, [near the site of the biblical Shiloh](#), where the Tabernacle was kept during the time of the judges, a group of Jews descended from the tribe of Levi and the priestly families, enacted a practice run of the purification ceremony.

The event occurred at a site called “[Ancient Shiloh](#)” affiliated with the Temple Institute, and contained explanations of the priestly functions, including sacrifice. The event also featured a “[Temple banquet](#)” containing foods from the Second Temple and biblical periods.

The highlight of the event was the presentation of one of the five red heifers.

“We are yearning for the Temple, and suddenly there is a red heifer here, and we understand what that means...something is about to happen,” stated Kobi Mamo, CEO of Ancient Shiloh.

According to the Book of Numbers, the Tabernacle and the Temple were purified with the ashes of a red heifer.

The Torah commands that a red heifer be without spot or blemish, and never have worn a yoke. Rabbinic law gives several additional stipulations to the requirements of the red heifer, or calf, such as being at least two years of age and having no white hairs.

The oldest of the red heifers brought from Texas last year is just months away from being the **required age** to sacrifice for the purification ritual.

The use of red heifers for purification has caused consternation for some Palestinians as well as secular Jews.

On the Hamas-owned “Al-Aqsa” program, Dr. Ahmad Shihab said the heifers were proof that “the Israeli government has a plan to cause a religious war in the region, and the settlers state religious claims regarding the Jews' right to al-Aqsa mosque.”

The Palestinian News Network also ran a **story** last week accusing the Israeli government of plotting with settlers to reconstruct the third Temple and “storm Al-Aqsa.”

'I can't take it anymore': CNN reporter exposes just how bad the violent crime surge in Oakland has become - TheBlaze

#bibleprophecy, #crime, #lawlessness, #oakland

Aug 8, 2023

As Oakland experiences a surge in violent crime, city residents are reportedly being asked to alert neighbors to crimes in progress using air horns.

CNN reporter Kyung Lah recently traveled to the crime-laden city where "brazen assaults and robberies in broad daylight, break-ins, and home invasions" have become the norm. Race and income make no difference, she said, because "everyone seems to be a target."

Crime statistics indeed show that while murders in Oakland are down, crimes such as robberies, burglaries, and even rape are up by double-digit percentages.

The surge has forced some lifelong Oakland residents, like Kristin Cook, to leave her hometown.

"I love Oakland. It's very hard for me and my son, especially my son," Cook told Lah. "I can't take it anymore. I got to the point [where] I was too scared to leave my house."

Other residents who spoke with Lah were optimistic.

Toni Bird, for example, is hopeful the crime surge will eventually dissipate. But until then, she is abiding by recommendations handed down by Oakland police: installing steel braces on her doors and using air horns to alert neighbors to ongoing danger.

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"The idea is if you set it off, your neighbor would hear it, set theirs off. And more people are alert that there's danger," she told Lah of the air horns.

Astonishingly, Lah met with a business owner, Laurel Ace Hardware owner Troy Welch, who had been robbed just hours before Lah arrived for their interview. He told the CNN reporter it took 45 minutes for police to respond.

"Is that typical?" Lah asked.

"That's probably fast," Welch responded.

Ironically, Lah herself became a victim of the crime surge. Last week, she revealed her car was targeted in a smash-and-grab while reporting in Oakland.

The report comes after the [Oakland NAACP](#) and [city residents](#) blasted Oakland's George Soros-backed district attorney, Pamela Price, over the city's rampant crime problem. The Oakland NAACP even called for a state of emergency to address the city's "failed leadership" and Price's policies.

The DA's office, however, responded by attacking those speaking out.

"We are disappointed that a great African-American pastor and a great African-American organization would take a false narrative on such an important matter," the office [said](#).

Price, who is facing a recall, previously [claimed that](#) "the DA's role has really no impact on crime."

Europe's far-left is normalizing antisemitism, report co-authored by ADL warns | The Times of Israel

#bibleprophecy, #anti-semitism, #europe, #united states

Aug 8, 2023

Eclipsed by neo-Nazi hostility, radicals on the other side of the political divide are bringing Jew hatred mainstream, the US group and four European partners say

The entry of a far-left party into government in Spain is allowing antisemitism to return to mainstream platforms, the Anti-Defamation League said Tuesday.

The assertion appeared in a report on left-wing antisemitism published by the Anti-Defamation League and partner organizations in France, the United Kingdom, Germany and Spain.

The report focuses on a phenomenon that is often eclipsed in reports about antisemitism in Europe, which many associate primarily with neo-fascists.

In the section about Spain, the ADL singled out Podemos, which it termed “a radical neo-Marxist party,” along with its “Communist associates.” The coalition in 2020 allowed Podemos to enter government, which “disrupted the post-war exclusion of antisemitism from mainstream platforms, and antisemitism is now making inroads in the pro-independence Basque and Catalan parties,” the report said.

ACOM, a pro-Israel group in Spain that is a local partner of the ADL, wrote in the report that “60 years ago, before the democratic era, antisemitism maintained its classical forms and was clearly a right-wing issue in Spain, as in the rest of Europe. Today, anti-Israel antisemitism of the political left accounts for the overwhelming share of antisemitism, while the Spanish right is almost entirely pro-Israel and guards against antisemitism.”

Podemos has been at the center of multiple scandals involving antisemitism, including the assertion in 2020 by Sonia Vivas, a Podemos politician, that Jews should be held accountable for supporting Israel’s government, which she said “constantly violates the fundamental rights of Palestinians.”

In the United Kingdom, the former leader of Labour, Jeremy Corbyn, signaled to antisemites on the political establishment’s left-wing fringes that they were welcome in the party, the CST watchdog on antisemitism wrote in the joint report with ADL. But Keir Starmer, his centrist successor, has taken significant steps to reverse this, the authors added.

In France, the far-left politician Jean-Luc Melenchon is harnessing and mainstreaming antisemitism, according to K., the Paris-based French Jewish magazine that authored the France segment of the ADL report.

Melenchon has made multiple statements widely condemned as antisemitic. In 2019 he vowed never to accede to the “arrogant dictates” of CRIF, the umbrella of French-Jewish communities. In 2014, he defended Arabs who stormed and torched synagogues in France and called Jewish supporters of Israel “citizens who decided to rally in front of the embassy of a foreign country or serve its flag, weapon in hand.”

In Germany, “the debates on the political left are normalizing antisemitism and shifting the baseline,” Amadeu Antonio Stiftung, an anti-discrimination group, wrote in the segment dealing with that country of the ADL report. What once was “considered an extreme position a few years ago is now a centrist opinion in the wider discourse,” it said.

There is a lot the US Jewish community can learn from the experience of Jewish communities across Europe, the ADL added: “Anti-Zionist rhetoric and terminology popular in European left circles are increasingly utilized by some in U.S. political far left” circles.

The report recalled how, in a 2021 letter, Democratic Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib and several other members of Congress referred to Israel’s policies in the West Bank as settler colonialism, “language that seeks to equate Israel with the colonialist policies of European governments” and label “the Palestinians as the sole indigenous population,” thus attempting to “cement the notions that Jews have no claim to or history in the land.”

Government to harden stance against Israel's 'illegal settlements in occupied' West Bank - ABC News

#bibleprophecy, #anti-semitism, #australia, #israel

Aug 8, 2023

The federal government is set to strengthen its objection to Israeli settlements in the West Bank — the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel.

Key points:

- Foreign Minister Penny Wong says the government will use the term "Occupied Palestinian Territories"
- She says the change will align Australia with the United Nations, the UK, New Zealand and Europe
- The language used by Australian ministers to describe the settlements has been inconsistent over the years

During Labor's caucus briefing, Foreign Minister Penny Wong said the government was looking to "strengthen the government's objection to settlements by affirming that they are illegal under international law and a significant obstacle to peace".

Last month, the [Australian government issued a statement](#) along with Canada and the United Kingdom to say they were "deeply concerned" by recent events in Israel and the West Bank.

The statement said the government of Israel's approval of new settlements in the West Bank — over 5,700 — further reduced "the prospects for peace" but it did not say they were illegal builds.

A similar statement was issued in February, when Australia joined with Germany, Italy, France, the United Kingdom and United States to [condemn a decision by the Israeli government](#) to build 10,000 settlement units in the West Bank.

Tuesday's announcement confirms the Australian government believes Israel's efforts to establish and expand settlements in the West Bank are [illegal under international law](#).

Senator Wong told colleagues the government would affirm the settlements were illegal and return to the position of "Occupied Palestinian Territories".

The language used by Australian ministers to describe the settlements has been inconsistent across different governments over the years.

The term "occupied territories" has been used by a handful of foreign ministers in recent decades but since 2014, most ministers have refrained from using the term occupied or occupation when referring to Palestinian territories.

Consistent with other nations

Speaking in parliament, Senator Wong said Australia's position would be consistent with other countries as well as United Nations General Assembly and United Nations Security Council resolutions.

"Australia is ... returning to the term occupied Palestinian territories and the point I'd make is that it is consistent with UN Security Council resolutions, it is consistent with the approach taken by key partners including the United Kingdom, New Zealand and the European Union," she said.

"So, this is a term which has been used, including on past occasions by past foreign ministers and past governments, that is consistent with much of the nomenclature that is used within the UN context and is used, as I said, by key partners including the United Kingdom, New Zealand and the European Union.

"In adopting the term, we are clarifying that the West Bank, including East Jerusalem and Gaza, were occupied by Israel following the 1967 War, and that the occupation continues."

Senator Wong said Australia remained a "committed friend of Israel" but that it is necessary to strengthen language when responding to settlements.

"The Australian government is strengthening its opposition to settlements by affirming they are illegal under international law and a significant obstacle to peace," she told parliament.

"This is consistent with a position of past governments, reflects legal advice and UN Security Council resolutions which determined that the settlements have no legal validity and constitute a violation of international law."

Labor's draft national platform states it "supports the recognition and right of Israel and Palestine to exist as two states within secure and recognised borders," it also "calls on the Australian government to recognise Palestine as a state" and outlines that it "expects that this issue will be an important priority for the Australian government."

The government hasn't stated when it will begin to use the strengthened language.

A statement from the General Delegation of Palestine to Australia, Aotearoa New Zealand and the Pacific welcomed the government's change in language.

"The ministry views this significant and important development in the Australian position positively, as it aligns with international law and United Nations resolutions, and supports global efforts aimed at reviving the peace process based on international

peace frameworks, foremost of which is the principle of the two-state solution," the statement said.

Coalition questions timing of announcement

Jewish Liberal MP Julian Lesser said the alteration in language was not a good decision.

"This decision will not help a two-state solution on the ground, it will only embolden and please organisations that we in this country have listed as terrorist organisations, like Palestinian Islamic Jihad," he said.

"It will not encourage people to the table and is off kilter with where Israel is going with its Arab neighbours since the Abraham Accords."

Mr Leeser said Australians needed to look at the timing of the announcement, which has been made ahead of the Australian National Labor Party Conference.

"I think this sends a bad message not just to Israel but to any of our allies around the world," he said.

"That Australian foreign policy is subject, while this government is in power, to the whim of the faction bosses within the Labor movement who are controlling their national conference.

"This is about a weak prime minister, a weak foreign minister unable to stare down their own people."

Mr Lesser said he did not accept that the settlements in the West Bank were illegal.

Shadow Foreign Minister Simon Birmingham also questioned the timing of the decision.

"The Coalition remains committed to supporting a lasting two-state solution, in which Israel and Palestine co-exist," he said in a statement.

"It is extremely regrettable that Labor's internal differences are undermining the consistency of Australia's position on these matters."

The electorate with the largest Jewish community in Australia is based in Sydney's east, in Wentworth, and federal independent MP Allegra Spender questioned the decision.

"There is no point in Australia making symbolic changes to language. We need to put domestic politics aside and be a friend to peace, by supporting both Israel and the Palestinians towards a two-state solution," she said in a statement.

[PCUSA pastor 'felt God's presence,' 'no sin' after 2 abortions | U.S. News \(christianpost.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #church, #apostasy, #abortion

Aug 5, 2023

Sermon alleges 'anti-choice' Evangelicals have 'colonized our minds' with 'toxic theology'

A female pastor who is also a Planned Parenthood advisor delivered a sermon in which she said she felt “God’s presence” when she aborted two pregnancies and blasted Evangelicals for their “toxic theology” on the subject.

In a [sermon](#) delivered July 9 at The Community Church of Chapel Hill Unitarian Universalist in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, the Rev. Rebecca Todd Peters spoke candidly about her own experience with abortion and how she views Scripture through that lens.

Wearing a pink stole emblazoned with the Planned Parenthood logo, Peters opened her message bemoaning the state of pro-life Evangelicalism, with its “talking fetuses, aggressive bumper stickers and saccharine billboards quoting Scripture and invoking God's wrath.”

Peters, who is also a professor of religious studies and founding director of the Poverty and Social Justice Program at Elon University in North Carolina, referenced the state’s recently passed law [banning](#) most abortions after 12 weeks. She said the bill’s passage is an example of Evangelical culture setting the political tone on abortion.

“When it is primarily Catholics and Evangelical Christians who talk about God and faith and abortion, they define the narrative anti-choice Christians have so effectively shaped,” she said.

This narrative, according to Peters, is a phenomenon that involves “shaping a fictional narrative that frames and controls how we all think and feel about abortion,” which she called “the abortion imaginary.”

Peters, invoking the language of [decolonization ideology](#), went on to claim this narrative “has colonized our minds, traumatizing many people with its toxic theology and shaping a culture of stigma and shame that has silenced millions of women and people who have had abortions, erasing their voices their stories and their witness from the public sphere.”

She pivoted to her recent work on the [Abortion and Religion Project](#), an interfaith research effort aimed at “documenting the stories and experiences of religious women/people having abortions.”

Peters spoke about how what she called the “abortion is sin” message has been “internalized not only by Christians but by Jews and Muslims,” calling it “one of the most disturbing things” she and her team learned in their interviews with over 500 “religiously identified people who have had abortions.”

After claiming that “the Bible doesn't say anything about abortion,” she appeared to describe her own statement as “astonishing because the Bible has a lot to say about how people are to live what is and isn't allowed. ... [B]ut to reiterate, it says nothing about abortion.”

In one of the more shocking moments of the sermon, Peters referred to pre-born life as a “zygote” and criticized the “anti-choice” position that life begins at conception.

“The lens through which anti-choice Christians read the Bible is the theological belief that from the moment of fertilization, a zygote is biologically, morally, ontologically and in every other way indistinguishable from a baby,” she said.

“When they then read Scripture through this lens, they abrogate all manner of text to support that position.”

But for Family Research Council's David Classon, Peters' assertion that the topic of abortion is not in the Bible is simply a “fundamental misreading of Scripture.”

While the word “abortion” itself does not appear in the Bible, Classon told CP Thursday the concept of “human life beginning at the moment of fertilization is all over the pages of Scripture.”

Peters said her reason for choosing Psalm 139 as the sermon’s primary text was because she views it as “one of the anthems of the abortion imaginary.”

“As a person of faith, I'm outraged by the Religious Right's co-optation of God, and whether you believe in God or a sacred presence or a divine order in the world or something else entirely, I expect that many of you might also be troubled by how Scripture and God are being used in the public debate about abortion,” she said.

“I refuse to cede the sacredness of Scripture or its interpretation to those who would wield it as a weapon.”

Classon, however, cited two of the more well-known passages, including Psalm 139, the same text from Peters' sermon, showing how God views life from conception.

“The author, David, talks about his development in utero, and he praises God for fearfully and wonderfully making him in his mother's womb,” he said. “It's a profoundly pro-life text.”

He also pointed to Luke 2, where Mary, who is pregnant with Jesus, goes to visit her relative Elizabeth, who is also pregnant with the child who would become known as John the Baptist.

"The unborn John the Baptist leaps for joy ... she refers to Mary as 'the mother of my Lord,'" Classon said. "Jesus is a couple of weeks in utero, yet Elizabeth recognizes Jesus as her Lord and Mary as the 'mother of my Lord.'

"So the idea that the Bible says nothing about abortion, and has nothing to teach us about abortion, is patently false."

Calling [Psalm 139](#) a "liberating message of justice and light," Peters then read from the text, "For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

Peters shared her appreciation for both the psalmist and the Psalm itself and appeared to affirm, along with Jeremiah and Job, "their certain knowledge that God was with them in the womb."

She revealed that as a mother of two, she had previously aborted two other pregnancies.

"I, too, feel that I am known by God in these ways, as a woman who has borne two children. I can affirm that I felt something sacred happening in my gestating body during those pregnancies," said Peters. "I can also attest that I felt God's presence with me as I made the decision to end two pregnancies and I felt no guilt, no shame, no sin."

While acknowledging his inability to know Peters' innermost thoughts, Classon said he finds it hard to believe Peters' claim about not experiencing any shame or guilt over her decision to terminate two of her unborn children.

"I don't know her heart, I can't get inside of her mind, but I think it's inevitable for the folks who go through terminating a pregnancy to think about it," he said. "It's not an easy decision."

"But to protest it as strongly as she does, 'no guilt, no shame, no sin,' if she really does feel that way, it would betray a conscience that has been seared, a conscience that no longer can hear the convicting voice of the Holy Spirit."

"Guilt and shame, those are appropriate responses to doing things that are morally blameworthy. And if it's true that she feels no guilt or no shame, that speaks to a conscience that has been seared, likely by decades of protesting and trying to convince herself that abortion indeed is not what it actually is, which is the intentional ending of a human life."

Peters further offered her views on what she termed "forced pregnancy."

"If pregnancy and gestation are to remain holy mysteries, they require cooperation," she said. "A forced pregnancy or birth is not holy."

Her sermon culminated in a stated theological position in which she suggested Bible-believing Christians can be both pro-life and pro-abortion.

“As complicated, thoughtful morally capable people, we are able to hold both of these realities in tension: that the gestation and birth of a child is a wondrous event to be celebrated and that not all pregnancies will or need to culminate in a birth,” she said.

“This is theologically consistent with the belief that prenatals are not yet human beings.”

Peters did not respond to a request for comment from The Christian Post. This story will be updated when a response is received.

According to her [bio](#), Peters has been active in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for over 25 years and currently represents the denomination as a member of the Faith and Order Standing Commission of the World Council of Churches.

She is also [listed](#) as a member of Planned Parenthood’s Clergy Advocacy Board, which supports “access to safe, legal abortions and other sexual and reproductive health care,” according to a statement from board chair the Rev. Burl Salmon.

[A Solar Flare Just Knocked Out Radio Across The US, And More Are on The Way : ScienceAlert](#)

#bibleprophecy, #sun, #solar flares, #radio

Aug 9, 2023

A wild few days for the Sun are being felt around Earth as the effects of its tantrums lash us across the gulf of space.

On 7 August, the Sun unleashed a powerful, X-class flare that caused radio blackouts across North America.

Space weather forecasts also predicted a combined 'cannibal' coronal mass ejection (CME) that erupted several days ago on 5 August would clip our atmosphere in a glancing blow. While it might well still produce a late arriving [solar storm](#), forecasters now suspect it [may have missed altogether](#).

We might expect to see this sort of solar behavior increasing in the coming months, as the Sun escalates towards the peak of its 11-year activity cycle, [predicted to take place in July 2025](#).

The Sun has been consistently spitting out daily eruptions for [over 18 months now](#), but it's definitely ramping up. June and July [each saw an X-class flare](#), the most powerful classification we have for solar flares.

Moreover, in July, we recorded an M-class flare – the second-most powerful – almost every day.

We're not even halfway through August, and we've already seen two X-class flares, and M-class flares every day; on 5 August, we saw, [in addition to an X1.63 flare](#), two M-class flares and 9 less powerful C-class flares.

We're certainly living in interesting solar times.

The X1.5-class flare that caused radio blackouts on 7 August was emitted by a sunspot region right on the edge of the solar disk, about to rotate away from view.

Nevertheless, it hit Earth with such power that a [radio blackout hit the North American continent](#) and the Pacific ocean.

The 5 August flare [also occurred from the edge of the disk](#); so far, no radio blackouts have been reported, although they may have occurred. However, the 5 August flare was accompanied by [coronal mass ejections](#), which is when large amounts of material, in the order of billions of tons, are ejected out from the Sun into the Solar System.

On 5 August, what the Sun emitted is known as a [cannibal CME](#). This is when two eruptions occur in relatively quick succession; and the second eruption, traveling faster than the first, overtakes and subsumes its predecessor, resulting in a more powerful wave of plasma and magnetic fields traveling through the Solar System.

Because it was emitted from the edge of the Sun, the blow this eruption is expected to deal to Earth is a glancing one. But from a cannibal CME, even a glazing blow is expected to deliver a pretty hefty [geomagnetic storm](#). This is a temporary, but pretty significant, disturbance to Earth's magnetic field caused by an exchange of energy with the incoming solar material.

Actually, the magnetic field does a pretty good job of protecting Earth from the full brunt, so you're unlikely to notice much in your day-to-day. At night, though, we [could be in for a treat](#): the influx of particles, interacting with Earth's atmosphere, is expected to [put on a spectacular aurora show](#) across Alaska, Canada, and the very northernmost parts of the US.

And keep your eye on [space weather forecasts](#). We could be up for some very pretty nights in the near future, if the [Sun keeps going the way it is](#).

[New Law Requires 'In God We Trust' Signs to Be Displayed in Every Louisiana Public School Classroom - Milton Quintanilla \(christianheadlines.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #schools, #god, #signs

Aug 4, 2023

A new law in Louisiana requires all public schools to ensure "In God We Trust" signs have been placed in classrooms.

The [law](#), HB8, went into effect on Tuesday after the state's Governor, John Bel Edwards (D), signed it last month. Under the legislation, a display of "In God We Trust," the national motto of the U.S., is mandated to be placed in every classroom of every building in every school district across the state.

The sign must be a poster or framed document at least 11 inches by 14 inches, [The Daily Wire](#) reported.

"The motto shall be the central focus of the poster or framed document and shall be printed in a large, easily readable font," the law reads.

Although schools can purchase the signs with public money, people can also buy the displays for schools with donations.

The ACLU of Louisiana, however, denounced Louisiana's new law.

"It's our belief that parents, not school officials, should be responsible for shaping their children's religious education," an ACLU spokesperson said.

"Will it send a message that only students who believe in God are welcome in public spaces?" ACLU Louisiana advocacy strategist A'Niya Robinson asked.

Meanwhile, the bill's author, state Representative Dodie Horton (R), argued that the legislation does not promote one particular religion.

"It doesn't preach any particular religion at all, but it certainly does recognize a higher power," Horton said.

"It's a positive message in this world that throws so many negative things at our children," she added.

Louisiana [passed](#) a smaller version of the law in 2018, requiring schools to have just one "In God We Trust" sign on display in public school buildings. The current law makes the signs more visible to students by requiring them to be placed in every classroom.

Additionally, the state [passed](#) another law on Tuesday calling for public high schools to offer an elective class on the Bible.

"The course shall maintain religious neutrality and accommodate diverse religious views, traditions, and perspectives," the law states.