



# **SIGNS OF THE TIMES**

**News Articles for Episode 377**

# [Hamas faces rising backlash as Gazans speak out despite risks | Fox News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #hamas, #gaza, #freedom

Aug 17, 2025

**'They've been tracking me for months,' activist says as Hamas cracks down**

**FIRST ON FOX:** As [Israel](#) prepares to expand its operations in the enclave, a quiet resistance is emerging against Hamas. In eastern Rafah, teachers are laying the foundation for the first schools focused on peace and tolerance under a non-Hamas civil administration.

Samira Mousa Mohammed Abu Mousa, one of the educators, told [the Center for Peace Communications](#) in an interview, "I despise Hamas because they were discriminatory, they were extremely biased, even when posting jobs. You had to have connections to get work."

Her classroom has become a space where children are learning. During a recent lesson, she asked her students, "Is it OK to violate a girl's rights and lock her in her room?" The response was immediate: "No way!" the kids replied. "Everyone has the right for freedom." She emphasized the broader mission of education beyond academics.

## [WHO IS THE GAZAN CHALLENGING HAMAS RULE, AND DOES HE HAVE A CHANCE?](#)

"People like me yearn for peace, comfort, hope and safety. We want to live in an environment free of war, shelling and destruction. We have been living through war for two years. We will begin again and restore education, God willing."

The efforts in eastern Rafah mirror the broader shift across Gaza. Citizens, educators and activists are increasingly rejecting Hamas, calling for a government that serves civilians, not the terror organization.

"They've been tracking me for months," Moumen al-Natour, a lawyer and co-founder of the We Want to Live movement, told Fox News Digital. He has been forced to live like a fugitive due to [Hamas' growing crackdown](#) on dissent..

"I'm moving from place to place, hiding because I don't want to be killed or even paralyzed. This is how Hamas operates."

Al-Natour, who is also the president of Palestinian Youth for Development, says the number of people opposing Hamas has dramatically increased since Oct. 7. "There used to be some opposition to Hamas," he says, "but after the attack and the consequences

that followed, more and more people in Gaza despise them. The suffering caused by Hamas' actions has turned the tide.

"It's a catastrophic situation... almost the entire population has been displaced."

### **EXCLUSIVE: WHISTLEBLOWER ALLEGES MISCONDUCT BY UNITED NATIONS IN GAZA**

Al-Natour says Hamas is using extreme measures to silence any opposition. "Hamas recently released a video showing members of the Al-Qassam Brigades executing people. They publicly threatened anyone who speaks out against them, saying they would treat them as enemies."

Mkhaimer Abusada, a Gazan political analyst speaking from Cairo, told Fox News Digital, "It's very anti-Hamas in general, whether it's in Gaza or among Palestinians here in Cairo. The Palestinian people have endured unimaginable hardship over the past 22 months – killing, destruction, starvation – with many now placing the blame squarely on Hamas. At the end of the day, they blame it on Hamas for the Oct. 7 attack."

He said the Israeli government's stance, which offers Hamas no alternative or negotiation options, has worsened the situation. "The worst is yet to come," Abusada warns. "The [Israeli cabinet's plan](#) to take over Gaza City and the entire Gaza Strip will only make the situation more catastrophic."

### **NETANYAHU VOWS TO TAKE FULL CONTROL OF GAZA STRIP, 'LIBERATE' PEOPLE FROM HAMAS**

Palestinians, according to Abusada, are calling for Hamas to accept a ceasefire and include other parties in the negotiations. "Negotiating solely with Hamas doesn't help... Hamas people don't care about death. They think if they die, they go to paradise. That is why it's very rare when Hamas fighters surrender. Most of them fight until the end, wanting to become shaheed (martyrs). They are ready to die."

"The voices I hear from Gaza are calling on Hamas to bring in the PA (Palestinian Authority) or [Egypt](#) to be part of the ceasefire talks. People just want an end to this madness," he said.

Another Gazan, who requested anonymity, echoed these sentiments. "It's true a lot of people are against Hamas now. People speak freely about it. They're not afraid anymore. They don't fear Hamas anymore. They are just killers, stupid people."

"The people of Gaza don't want to fight Israel," the Gazan man added, "But at the same time, many Gazans do blame Israel for not differentiating between civilians and Hamas. Why are we being kept in the same area as Hamas? Israel should have thought about safe zones from the beginning. Now, more people are realizing the importance of

this idea. We need many safe zones where people can go, far from Hamas, and where aid can reach them."

"For the first time, [people are speaking out](#), even at great personal risk... they want change. They want an end to the violence, and they are ready to make their voices heard," al-Natour said.

# Smotrich rejoices as settlement plan that 'erases 2-state delusion' gets final greenlight | The Times of Israel

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #hamas, #gaza, #freedom

Aug 20, 2025

## **Minister fetes 'historic' approval of controversial construction scheme in West Bank's E1 area, upending a decades-long freeze; PA says move divides West Bank into 'prisons'**

A major construction project that would see some 3,400 housing units built in the contentious E1 area in the West Bank, between Jerusalem and the settlement of Ma'ale Adumim, was given final approval Wednesday.

[Announced last week by Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich](#), the controversial plan was formally greenlit by the Higher Planning Committee of the Civil Administration, a Defense Ministry department.

Smotrich, who also holds a junior ministerial position in the Defense Ministry that grants him wide say in settlement construction, called the decision "historic."

He described the construction plan as a "significant step that practically erases the two-state delusion and consolidates the Jewish people's hold on the heart of the Land of Israel."

"The Palestinian state is being erased from the table not by slogans but by deeds. Every settlement, every neighborhood, every housing unit is another nail in the coffin of this dangerous idea," the far-right minister declared.

He cast the dramatic move, which will effectively bisect the West Bank, as retaliation against Western states that announced plans to recognize a Palestinian state in recent weeks.

The plan received praise from Ma'ale Adumim Mayor Guy Yifrach, who said in a statement that he was "pleased to announce that just a short while ago, the Civil Administration approved the planning for the construction of the E1 neighborhood."

Meanwhile, the Palestinian Authority slammed the approval, saying it undermines the chances of a two-state solution.

The project "fragments... geographic and demographic unity, entrenching the division of the occupied West Bank into isolated areas and cantons that are disconnected from

one another, turning them into something akin to real prisons,” the PA’s foreign ministry said in a statement.

If the process moves quickly, infrastructure work in E1 could begin in the next few months and construction of homes could start in around a year, according to AP.

The E1 settlement project had been frozen for decades amid fierce opposition from the international community, including past US administrations, which feared building a new settlement neighborhood on the mostly empty tract of land would rule out the establishment of a contiguous, viable Palestinian state.

The now-approved plan will connect the Jerusalem and Ma’ale Adumim metropolitan areas, while seemingly scuttling the prospect of a contiguous Palestinian presence between the population centers of Bethlehem, East Jerusalem, and Ramallah — long considered the basis for a Palestinian state.

The Peace Now organization, which campaigns against the settlement movement, concurred with Smotrich that the project severely threatens the viability of a future Palestinian state, adding that implementing the plans would move Israel toward becoming a “binational apartheid state.”

“Under the cover of war, Smotrich and his minority of messianic friends are establishing a delusional settlement that we will have to evacuate in any agreement,” said the organization, adding that billions of shekels may be spent — and wasted — on the development.

“The entire purpose of the settlement in E1 is to sabotage a political solution and rush towards a binational apartheid state,” the group’s statement continued.

Last week’s announcement of the move [sparked widespread condemnation](#) from European and Arab countries, alongside international organizations, with the United Nations calling on Israel to reverse its decision.

UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said to reporters that the plan would “put an end to prospects of a two-state solution.”

The European Union similarly urged Israel to desist from its plan, with the agency’s top diplomat Kaja Kallas saying in a statement that the step “undermines the two-state solution while being a breach of international law.”

# Turkey and Syria quietly deepen their military and intelligence cooperation | All Israel News

#bibleprophecy, #turkey, #syria, #military, #allience

Aug 20, 2025

Syria and Turkey held meetings earlier this month, during which the two countries signed an agreement for Turkey to modernize the Syrian military. More notably, according to a former Free Syrian Army (FSA) officer who spoke on condition of anonymity, the talks focused heavily on creating a new Interior Ministry “information branch” intended to channel intelligence from Syria to Turkey.

According to a report by the *Media Line*, “Turkey is not only upgrading Syria’s military capacity – it is also embedding intelligence structures in Quneitra and As-Suwayda [in the south], areas where Washington has been attempting to broker a humanitarian corridor from Israel.”

According to the anonymous source, the main tasks, at least for now, of the new “information branch” would be to collect and analyze information on “cross-border activities, dissident networks, and potential Israeli or US operations” in the south.

“This is about more than cooperation,” the former FSA officer explained. “It is Turkey planting a permanent flag inside Syria’s security services.”

The agreement gives Turkey influence over Syria’s military and intelligence institutions, particularly in the south, home to Syria’s Druze minority. Turkey appears intent on expanding its presence in the region: the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) reports that Syria’s Ministry of Defense has recruited roughly 200 young men from villages in the Quneitra Governorate and sent them to Turkey for military training. According to *The Media Line*, “Analysts see this as another indication that Ankara is not only advising Damascus but also reshaping its manpower on the ground.”

According to one analyst, Malik al-Abdeh, managing director of Conflict Mediation Solutions and editor of the policy newsletter *Syria in Transition*, Turkey wants to prevent regional ethnic autonomy for the Druze and Kurds by infiltrating Syrian institutions – including intelligence – and by making sure that Syria’s ruler is able to confront any demands for both Kurdish autonomy in the northeast of Syria and for the Druze in the south.

“The message from Ankara is simple: A strong centralized state in Damascus, backed by Turkey and Russia, is the only way to hold the country together,” al-Abdeh wrote.

Israel, for its part, views any Turkish military involvement in the south as a threat and supports Kurdish and Druze demands for autonomy. In line with this stance, Israel has conducted dozens of airstrikes targeting Syrian government forces in support of the Druze.

“It’s not only the savagery of Hamas and the Iranian terror axis. In Syria just a few weeks ago, we stopped the savage massacre of Druze, a non-Islamic sect,” Netanyahu [\*\*said\*\*](#) at a U.S. Independence Day reception hosted by *Newsmax*.

The U.S., on the other hand, has sought to maintain good relations with both Turkey and Israel, while seeking to reassure Turkey that Kurdish autonomy is not in the cards.

A Syrian analyst, Elias Abu Jrab said that Turkey’s involvement in Syria strengthens the country against Israel.

“The agreement strengthens our air force against Israel’s raids. Turkey’s strategic goals serve a united state. The Gulf supports this vision too,” Abu Jrab said.

The U.S. is currently [\*\*working on negotiating an agreement\*\*](#) between Israel and Syria to allow the transfer of humanitarian aid to Syria’s Druze community in the southern Suwayda province.

The move is intended to repair relations between Israel and Syria while providing aid to the Druze, following the massacre of hundreds of civilians by Bedouin tribes and government-affiliated jihadist forces.

The proposed corridor would run from the Israeli border to the “Druze Mountain,” the mountainous region surrounding the city of Suwayda, which has struggled to receive aid due to ongoing tensions and roadblocks.



# 'If America pulls the plug on Israel, God will pull the plug on us,' US Senator Graham tells fellow Republicans | All Israel News

#bibleprophecy, #america, #israel, #support, #republicans

Aug 15, 2025

In a speech to fellow South Carolina Republicans on Wednesday, U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham said, “If America pulls the plug on Israel, God will pull the plug on us.”

“To people in my party: I’m tired of this,” Graham [said](#), referencing the fact that criticism of Israel has become more commonplace among conservatives.

“Israel is our friend,” he continued. “They’re the most reliable friend we have in the Mideast. They’re a democracy, surrounded by people who would cut their throats if they could. This is not a hard choice if you’re an American.”

Graham went on to say that [siding with Israel](#) “is not a hard choice if you’re a Christian.”

“A word of warning: If America pulls the plug on Israel, God will pull the plug on us. And we’re not gonna let that happen.”

He also praised U.S. President Donald Trump for his consistent support of Israel.

“President Trump has stood with Israel at the most difficult time since its founding,” he said. “When it comes to foreign policy, President Trump has stood up for all the right things, and he stood up against wrong things. Just like Reagan,” he added, referring to the late Republican U.S. President Ronald Reagan (1981-1989).

Since Oct. 7, 2023, Graham has consistently supported the Israeli military's actions in Gaza.

“We’re in a religious war here,” he [said](#) three days after the Hamas attack.

“I am with Israel. Do whatever you have to do to defend yourself. Level the place.”

Graham’s unwavering position stands in contrast to a small but growing faction within his own party that has voiced sharp criticism of Israel’s actions.

Former Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett warned this week that support for Israel – once rock-solid among Republicans – is beginning to erode, in part because of poor messaging from Netanyahu’s government. He noted that even longtime allies are

finding it harder to defend Israel, pointing to conservative figures, such as Tucker Carlson and U.S. Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, as examples of influential voices questioning Israel's military campaigns in Gaza and against Iran.

Conservative American political commentator and television personality Tucker Carlson began publicly criticizing U.S. support for Israel – and questioning the U.S.–Israel relationship – at least as early as April 2024.

Last month, [Carlson accused](#) Israel of 'committing crimes' in America, and claimed that Jeffrey Epstein was an Israeli agent.

Greene, a U.S. congresswoman from Georgia, became the first Republican in Congress to refer to Israel's military operations in Gaza as a “genocide.”

“It's the most truthful and easiest thing to say that Oct 7th in Israel was horrific and all hostages must be returned, but so is the genocide, humanitarian crisis, and starvation happening in Gaza,” she [wrote](#) on X.

# [Manhattan protesters chant 'globalize intifada' amid bipartisan pushback | Fox News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #anti-semitism, #global intifada, #jews, #protests

Aug 16, 2025

## **Bipartisan legislation would classify the phrase a call to violence against Jewish people worldwide**

Thousands of anti-Israel demonstrators reportedly flooded [midtown Manhattan](#) Saturday afternoon, calling for a "global intifada," a slogan many view as an incitement to violence against Jewish communities.

The Stand with Gaza protesters, carrying signs seeking to "end all aid to Israel," clanged cowbells while chanting "free, free Palestine" and "Palestine will live forever."

Since the Oct. 7, 2023, terror attack by Hamas in southern Israel, the phrase "globalize the intifada" has been referred to as a call for [antisemitic violence](#).

## [DEM LAWMAKER ADMITS PEOPLE MIGHT ACTUALLY MEAN IT WHEN THEY SAY 'GLOBALIZE THE INTIFADA'](#)

New York City mayoral candidate [Zohran Mamdani](#), a self-proclaimed Democratic socialist, recently sparked controversy after failing to publicly condemn the mantra.

After critics noted his silence on the issue, he said it is not "language" he uses.

"It is language, I understand, there are concerns about, and what I will do is showcase my vision for the city through my words and my actions," Mamdani said.

## [TOP DEMOCRATS, MEDIA DEMAND ZOHRAN MAMDANI CONDEMN 'GLOBALIZE THE INTIFADA' PHRASE](#)

Bipartisan legislation recently introduced by U.S. Reps. Josh Gottheimer, D-N.J., and [Rudy Yakym](#), R-Ind., would denounce the term as "a call to violence against Israeli and Jewish people across the world."

"Condemning it should be common sense, but some would rather play politics than tell the truth," Yakym told Fox News Digital in July. "The violence and hatred directed at Jewish and Israeli people is reprehensible. No one, especially in America, should have to live in fear for their safety, or even their life, because of their religion or ethnicity."

Gottheimer, who is Jewish, added the intifada refers to the horrific wave of terror attacks that killed thousands of Jews. Globalizing it, he said, is a direct call for [violence against Jews](#).

"It must be condemned," Gottheimer said. "I'm against hate speech targeting anyone — and everyone should be. It's insane and unacceptable to me that this antisemitic rhetoric is spreading rampant across our country."

### **WE CAN'T IGNORE THE DANGER FROM THOSE WHO WANT TO 'GLOBALIZE THE INTIFADA.' WE NEED TO TAKE ACTION**

The legislation cites violent attacks against Jewish people in the U.S., including the fatal burning of pro-Israel demonstrators in Boulder, Colorado, and the deadly shooting of two Israeli embassy staffers in D.C.

If passed in the House, the resolution would denote the phrase as a call for violence against Israeli and Jewish people throughout the world, putting their safety at risk. It would also discourage leaders from supporting or partaking in the chant.

# Israeli envoy warns of rising antisemitism in France: 'Some want to erase all Jewish memory' | Ynetnews.com

#bibleprophecy, #anti-semitism, #france, #jews, #protests

Aug 17, 2025

Israel's ambassador to France, Joshua Zarka, says antisemitism is surging to levels not seen since the rise of Nazism, fueled by political tensions and foreign-backed protests

Israel's ambassador to France, Joshua Zarka, condemned a wave of [antisemitism in France](#) following [the recent felling of a tree planted in memory of Ilan Halimi](#), the [young Jewish man murdered in 2006 by the "Gang of Barbarians."](#)

Zarka called the act "one of the most shocking events," noting that Halimi was tortured for days before being killed. "His mother planted the tree in his memory. Despite it being just a tree, people came and cut it down. These individuals want to erase all memory of Jewish life in France," he said.

Zarka described the surge in antisemitism as unprecedented in modern times: "We are facing an enormous [wave of antisemitism in France, and across Europe](#). It is something not seen since the last century, with the rise of Nazism. The major outbreak occurred on Oct. 8, 2023, when even as Israel mourned its dead and counted the kidnapped in Gaza, crowds took to the streets in Paris, London, New York, and elsewhere, shouting 'Death to the Jews.'"

The ambassador pointed to foreign influence in the recent surge, citing Qatar and Turkey as funding pro-Palestinian organizations whose activities created fertile ground for antisemitic attacks. He also criticized [French President Emmanuel Macron](#), [suggesting that the expected recognition of a Palestinian state](#) inadvertently encouraged antisemitism. Zarka said that while Macron did not intend to promote such hostility, his remarks criticizing Jewish support for Israel have had the effect of emboldening anti-Jewish violence.

The escalating antisemitism is prompting many French Jews, the second-largest Jewish community in the world, to consider moving to Israel. "It is [no longer a question of whether to make aliyah, but when](#) and under what conditions," Zarka said. Some community members are reportedly making extraordinary preparations, such as converting savings into gold to bring to Israel, evoking memories of pre-World War II precautions.

Zarka emphasized that French authorities are making significant efforts to combat antisemitism. “The Ministry of the Interior and the police are doing crucial work, but the sheer volume of attacks—assaults, vandalism, and other antisemitic incidents—is overwhelming. Jews are hiding their identity; they do not display the Star of David, wear a kippah, or mark their homes out of fear for their safety,” he said.

He also addressed [incidents targeting El Al’s Paris offices](#) and temporary visa suspensions for Israeli security personnel, noting that these issues have since been resolved.

# **Record Mosquito-Borne Disease Outbreaks in Europe | Newsmax.com**

#bibleprophecy, #mosquitos, #disease, #europe, #illness

Aug 20, 2025

Europe has registered a record number of outbreaks of mosquito-borne illnesses such as chikungunya and West Nile virus this year, the EU health agency said Wednesday, saying climate change was contributing to a "new normal".

Europe is experiencing longer and more intense transmission seasons for mosquito-borne diseases, said the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).

"This shift is driven by climatic and environmental factors such as rising temperatures, longer summer seasons, milder winters and changes in rainfall patterns — conditions that combine to create a favourable environment for mosquitoes to thrive and transmit viruses," it said in a statement.

Europe was entering a new phase where "longer, more widespread and more intense transmission of mosquito-borne diseases is becoming the new normal", said ECDC director Pamela Rendi-Wagner.

The mosquito that can spread chikungunya virus, *Aedes albopictus*, is now established in 16 European countries and 369 regions, up from just 114 regions a decade ago, the ECDC said.

Europe has seen 27 chikungunya outbreaks so far in 2025, a new record for the continent.

For the first time, a locally acquired case was reported in France's Alsace region, "an exceptional occurrence at this latitude, highlighting the continued northward expansion of the transmission risk", the agency said.

As of August 13, eight European countries had reported 335 locally acquired human cases of West Nile virus infection and 19 deaths, with Italy being the country most affected by far, with 274 infections.

"As the mosquito-borne disease landscape evolves, more people in Europe will be at risk in the future," said Celine Gossner, Head of Section for food-, water-, and vector-borne and zoonotic diseases at ECDC.

Prevention was more important than ever, both through coordinated public health action and personal protection measures, she said.

The ECDC called for individuals in affected areas to protect themselves against mosquito bites using mosquito repellent, wearing long sleeves and trousers, and using window screens and bed nets.



# Trump's comments over Heaven spark debate over salvation, works | Christianpost.com

#bibleprophecy, #trump, #heaven, #salvation, #works, #faith

Aug 20, 2025

President Donald Trump's [recent comments](#) suggesting he could earn his way to Heaven by ending the Ukraine-Russia war prompted a flurry of theological debate on social media regarding good works, salvation and the state of the president's soul.

"I want to try and get to Heaven if possible," Trump told "Fox & Friends" during a phone interview Tuesday morning. "I'm hearing I'm not doing well. I hear I'm really at the bottom of the totem pole."

"But if I can get to Heaven, this will be one of the reasons," he added, referring to potentially helping to secure an end to the bloodshed in Ukraine.

Evangelist and Samaritan's Purse CEO Franklin Graham, the son of evangelist Billy Graham, who has been an adamant supporter of the president, refrained from criticizing Trump for his comments but used them as an opportunity to clarify the Gospel.

"President [Trump] brought up the topic of Heaven on Fox News yesterday morning, and I'm glad he did because many people struggle with the question of how we can get there," Graham [wrote](#).

"We do get to Heaven by good works — not by our own good works, but by the perfect work of God's Son, Jesus Christ, when He came to earth, took our sins to the cross, shed His blood, died, was buried, and God raised Him to life on the third day. We all have the promise of eternal life if we repent of our sins, trust Him by faith, and make Him the Lord of our lives."

Evangelist Justin Peters suggested Trump has been ill-served by some of his famous Evangelical faith advisors if he believes he is capable of earning his place in paradise.

"How sad that after being exposed for many years to some of the most high-profile 'Christian' preachers in the country, Mr. Trump still does not understand the Gospel," he [wrote](#).

"All these 'prophets' like Paula White, Kenneth Copeland, Franklin Jentezen [sic], Che Ahn, etc. giddy over their access to the White House (and men who know these to be false prophets but choose to endorse them or at least turn a willful blind eye to them —

I'm looking at you Robert Jeffress and Jack Graham and others) have done Mr. Trump no favors whatsoever," he added.

Trump [fielded criticism](#) from his former attorney Jenna Ellis, who echoed Peters in her description of the president's apparent works-based view of salvation, which she claimed did not emerge from a lack of faithful counsel.

"This isn't powerful, it's sad. President Trump has had many faithful Christians around him who have told him the truth of the gospel (I know, I've been one of them and I've been in the room) — that it is not by works that we attain salvation; only through confession of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and by His righteousness are we saved," she wrote, citing [Romans 1](#).

Some pointed out that, regardless of potential theological error, Trump's rhetoric regarding eternity and his own unworthiness before God may indicate a change of heart in the billionaire who famously [said in 2015](#) he was unsure if he had ever asked God for forgiveness.

"I'm not sure I have [asked God to forgive me]," he told pollster Frank Luntz at the time. "I just go on and try and do a better job from there. I don't think so. If I do something wrong, I think I just try and make it right. I don't bring God into that picture."

William Wolfe, who serves as executive director at the Center for Baptist Leadership, pushed back against Christians criticizing Trump's soteriology and urged them to pray for him.

"Donald Trump is publicly voicing introspection about his soul, his eternal future, and his desire to go to Heaven," Wolfe [wrote](#). "And Christians on here are dogpiling [on] him and counter-signaling it because he didn't get the 'theology right.' Why not just renew your prayers for him?"

Trump has been outspoken in his belief that God played a role in his unlikely escape from an assassin's bullet on July 13, 2024, in Butler, Pennsylvania. Some pointed out that Trump may have a changed perspective after his near-death experience.

Journalist Salena Zito, who was present at the Butler rally and [wrote a bestselling book](#) about the topic, said she was not surprised by Trump's rhetoric given his narrow escape from death, which he has attributed to "the hand of God."

"If you read [Zito's book] Butler, this quote from [Trump] would not surprise you at all," Zito [posted](#). "His spiritual journey and his deep discussions with me about that journey is all there for anyone curious to understand him."

Author and poet Joseph Massey echoed Zito and suggested Trump's flash of humility may encourage others who are spiritually searching.

"Humility is not a weakness. It's a strength," he [said](#). "Butler changed Trump — he felt the hand of God — and if you aren't deranged, you saw those changes. There are suffering people, sinners in despair, who will hear this clip and take comfort in it. No power on Earth is greater than God."

During [his address](#) at the 2024 Republican National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, days after he was almost killed, Trump thanked Franklin Graham for his influence and expressed humility regarding the fact that he is still alive.

Remembering when he heard the Gospel as a young man during one of Billy Graham's rallies at Yankee Stadium in New York City, Trump said he is trying to be a better person after Franklin Graham sent him a note admonishing him against his use of foul language during his speeches.

"I'm trying," Trump said. "I'm working so hard to adhere to his note to me. I'm working hard on it, frankly. But if the events of last Saturday make anything clear, it is that every single moment we have on Earth is a gift from God."

# [Bible engagement surges as Gen Z seeks spiritual meaning and truth | Fox News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #bible, #church, #gen z, #truth

Aug 17, 2025

## **Young adults drive surge in church attendance and Bible popularity in multiple countries**

The Bible is having a moment. It's true: Younger generations are showing an unmistakable but surprising openness to the Bible. They are driving a sizable increase in Americans who have seemingly rediscovered the Bible and made a personal commitment to Jesus, according to many sources, including a recent Barna study.

It's happening across the globe, as well. The UK's Quiet Revival Report showed a [16% increase in church attendance](#) among 18–24-year-olds — findings that "completely reverse the widely held assumption that the Church in England and Wales is in terminal decline," according to the report's coauthor. [Bible](#) sales grew 50% in Russia in 2024, following two straight years of record-breaking increases.

The trend features a myriad of other Gen Z trends that confound older generations, such as their sharp decline in partying and teen drinking. There is a ["Catholic boom"](#) in France, the U.S. and the UK, where Catholics are on track to surpass Anglicans for the first time ever. Monasteries and convents are reporting wait lists with younger guests booking silent stays to escape technology.

But that's not to say that they've abandoned technology. Indeed, the rise in Bible engagement is likely linked to the plethora of [Bible apps and viral videos](#) from new sources. Many of those who are encountering the Bible are doing so through new media of videos and podcasts, as we've seen with the work of the Bible Project and others.

The causes of these complex social patterns do not lend themselves to easy explanations. But, as the former president of Ashland University, I witnessed the stirrings of these trends firsthand. Students were earnestly praying for one another and engaging in a way that we had not experienced previously on our campus; faith-forward student groups surged to new heights, and recruiters affirmed that many students were attracted to our Christian ethos.

I continue to see the same desire for the truth held in these ancient words at [Museum of the Bible](#). Scores of new seekers are flocking to the timelessness of the world's most read book in history. Young people seem dissatisfied with the materially focused status quo, and crave, even actively seek real meaning in their lives. Gen Z is not a generation satisfied with half-measures.

## **CATHOLICISM SEES MAJOR RESURGENCE AMONG GEN Z, WITH YOUNG MEN LEADING THE REVIVAL**

Thankfully, our God — and His Word — are not half-measures. "Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves." (Romans 12:9-10 NIV) Simple, powerful verses like these have become Gen Z favorites as a new generation has seemingly discovered the Bible again.

The book of Nehemiah tells how the Israelites worshiped and wept when they "rediscovered" the Scriptures in the temple after the Babylonian exile.

These were people seeking God with intense earnestness, intention and openness. These were people who'd confronted existential loss, confusion and suffering while living in a foreign land.

Unearthing this power — and the ability to be deeply moved by it — is essential if we want to understand younger generations' unexpected draw to the Bible, and to Jesus.

## **AMERICA IS REDISCOVERING ITS SOUL AND REVIVING THE SACRED**

We should also listen to those young adults who prayed at the Asbury Revival two years ago, which at its peak featured an estimated 50,000 visitors from nearly 300 colleges and universities. Firsthand accounts described participants rejecting "hollow words and hypocrisy," desiring "values embodied in action," and exhausted with "the spiritual diseases of modern life."

All too often, discussions about the Bible can be filled with a certainty that can feel like smugness and border on hubris. Some apologists can act like they have something privileged and invaluable that audiences will miss out on if they don't embrace the message right then and there regardless of their current beliefs.

*The book of Nehemiah tells how the Israelites worshiped and wept when they "rediscovered" the Scriptures in the temple after the Babylonian exile.*

At the Museum of the Bible, I've seen firsthand the appreciation from young visitors that we aren't trying to convince them of anything. We give them space to explore the Bible and its impact throughout the centuries and come to their own conclusions. Our trust in the Holy Spirit's work supersedes our urge to control the outcome. As Charles Spurgeon said: "The Word of God is like a lion. You don't have to defend a lion. All you have to do is let the lion loose, and it will defend itself."

The fact is that we're daily seeing a desire for a genuine encounter with God. It's clear that younger generations are hungry for existential and spiritual meaning, and value authenticity and virtues that lead to lives modeled on truth.

It's an honest search which demands a genuine invitation to dialogue and encounter —

not soundbites, crafty answers, or facile, textbook responses.

As we lean into this generation's spiritual quest, educational institutions, churches and ministries focused on the Bible need to provide rigorous and respectful guidance to a curious generation that will otherwise end up with a BYO faith comprised of a patchwork of spiritual influences. An authentic and relevant movement for Bible literacy and relevance must build on an intellectual, emotional and spiritual transformation driven by the Bible's timeless truth, historical context, its inherent narrative and tangible impact on society and personal lives.

Only then will a seeking generation discover in the Bible more than just a book, but sustenance for our longing souls.