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News Articles for Episode 429

US pressure mounts: Kushner arrives in Israel demanding Netanyahu implement Gaza plan | Israel National News.com

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #hamas, #gaza plan, #kushner

Aug 16, 2026

Pressure on Israel over the future of the war in Gaza is intensifying. Jared Kushner, the son-in-law of US President Donald Trump, is expected to meet with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday, with the talks focused on Washington's demand that Israel move toward practical implementation of the framework for ending the war.

Kushner is expected to arrive in Israel as part of a regional visit alongside senior officials from the Board of Peace, including senior envoy Nikolay Mladenov and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair. It will be his first visit to Israel since January 2026, following talks Kushner and senior Board of Peace officials held with a Hamas delegation in Egypt.

According to officials familiar with the matter, the message the delegation is bringing is different from previous rounds of negotiations. From the Trump administration's perspective, the discussion is no longer supposed to focus on rewriting the framework, but rather on how commitments that have already been made can be translated into action on the ground.

One official familiar with the talks described their objective as an effort to "translate the roadmap commitments into concrete and verifiable steps." Washington expects progress on a number of issues, including a halt to attacks in Gaza, an Israeli withdrawal toward the Yellow Line, a significant increase in humanitarian aid entering Gaza, and progress in establishing reconstruction and civilian governance mechanisms.

Against this backdrop, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Qatar, Jordan, Indonesia, and Turkey issued a joint statement condemning Israel's rejection of Trump's plan. The statement claimed that "Israel bears responsibility for delaying peace efforts in Gaza and the Palestinian territories," and warned that rejecting the plan could undermine the US president's efforts to bring the war to an end.

Washington expects Netanyahu to move to implementation

Officials familiar with the talks say that, from Trump's perspective, Netanyahu has already given his principled agreement to the framework. They claim that after the US administration agreed to steps requested by the prime minister, the White House now expects Israel to fulfill its part as well.

One official described the message coming from the president's circle in a conversation with *Ynet* as follows: "Bibi has to agree to the deal. I did what he asked. Now he has to do what I'm asking." Another official claimed that Washington believes Israel is attempting to buy time through new reservations and changes to the sequence of steps, saying, "They feel Israel is playing games."

Kushner, according to the officials, does not intend to arrive for another round of exchanging messages between Israel and Hamas. "He is coming to get things done," one official familiar with the talks said.

One reason for the US position is Israel's early involvement in formulating the plan. According to officials familiar with the details, Israel's National Security Council was involved in developing the framework, and discussions between the sides also addressed details and implementation mechanisms. Therefore, from Trump's perspective, the dispute is no longer over whether an agreed framework exists, but over moving from a principled agreement to implementation.

At the heart of the gap between Jerusalem and Washington is the question of sequencing. The 15-point plan calls for a halt to military activity, the disarmament of Hamas, the transfer of civilian responsibility in Gaza to a Palestinian technocratic body, a gradual IDF withdrawal, and the deployment of an international stabilization force.

Under the plan, the dismantling of weapons and the Israeli withdrawal are supposed to proceed through parallel and verifiable steps. Israel, however, has made clear that it is unwilling to withdraw from its positions in Gaza before Hamas is completely disarmed, and has publicly rejected the framework in its current form.

Hamas, for its part, has announced its acceptance of the framework. During the talks in Egypt, pressure was placed on the group to agree to disarmament and the transfer of governing responsibility in Gaza.

An official familiar with the talks with Hamas said the demands include steps to ensure the ceasefire is maintained, the transfer of governing responsibility to the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza, and a guarantee that Hamas will have no role in future governance. At the same time, Hamas is being required to dismantle its weapons and military infrastructure, while an international stabilization force would be deployed, Israel would carry out parallel withdrawals, and aid and reconstruction efforts would be accelerated.

Alongside the pressure on Jerusalem, officials on the Board of Peace believe that, on the practical level, Israel is already complying with some of the understandings. According to them, they attribute some of the public statements coming from Israel to domestic political considerations and are focusing primarily on developments on the ground.

Kushner's meeting in Egypt was his first with senior Hamas officials since the October 2025 ceasefire agreement. The talks were attended, among others, by Hamas political bureau chief Khalil al-Hayya, Egyptian intelligence chief General Hassan Rashad, Qatari minister Ali al-Thawadi, and a senior Turkish official.

Temple Mount status quo continues to erode as Jews are seen using prayer books for first time | All Israel.news

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #temple mount, #jews, #prayers

Aug 17, 2026

Israel Police reportedly allow Jewish prayer books on the Temple Mount for the first time, as Ben Gvir sparks fresh controversy over Gaza remarks.

The status quo on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem has prevented any type of non-Muslim religious ritual, particularly prayers by Jews and Christians, since 1967.

However, over the past years, especially during the period of right-wing firebrand Itamar Ben Gvir as National Security Minister, this status quo has eroded steadily, as Jewish visitors to the mount started praying, singing, and even fully prostrating themselves without being arrested.

In the past, even lips moving silently in prayer had been enough to cause the removal of worshippers, and non-Muslims ascending the mount were subject to intense searches that removed any item with religious affiliation, such as tefillin (phylacteries) and prayer shawls.

On Sunday, Israel Police for the first time apparently allowed Jewish worshippers to bring Jewish prayer books, and right-wing journalist Arnon Segal uploaded a picture showing Jews praying openly.

הבוקר בהר הבית: יהודים מתפללים עם סידורים. עדיין לא הותר גורף אבל ניסוי ראשוני במטרה לוודא שהמזרח pic.twitter.com/MduyDoYKmm התיכון לא יוצא מדעתו בגלל זה. היסטוריה

— ארנון סגל (@arnonsegal1) [August 16, 2026](#)

The left-wing newspaper *Haaretz* cited worshipers saying that the police allowed them to bring the prayer books, adding that police had approved bringing [prayer sheets](#), but not books, to the mount since January.

“Still no blanket permit but a first try to make sure the Middle East doesn’t lose its mind over this,” Segal wrote under his post on X, praising this as a “historic” event.

The police only told *Haaretz* that the Temple Mount is managed “in accordance with the instructions of the political leadership, standard practices at the site and based on an operational assessment.”

A slow trend toward allowing Jews more rights on the holy site was significantly accelerated when Ben Gvir took office. He has since ascended the site several times despite strong international condemnation, leading prayers and marches.

In September of last year, Temple Mount activist and Rabbi Yehuda Glick led a [mixed Jewish-Christian group](#) to the mount to pray in memory of Evangelical Christian and conservative activist Charlie Kirk.

In July of this year, several thousand Jews visited the Temple Mount for the Tisha B'Av holiday, including Ben Gvir and several other politicians, triggering another [wave of condemnations](#).

Jewish worshipers ascend Temple Mount on Tisha B'Av, pray and seen here performing the priestly blessing in massive departure from the status quo w/ Jordan, which ostensibly administers the site pic.twitter.com/PkQkuUpkr9

— charlie summers (@cbsuo3) [July 23, 2026](#)

Despite this trend, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has routinely claimed in statements that his government had not and would not change the Temple Mount status quo.

Meanwhile, Ben Gvir drew outrage across the Arab world again on Sunday, this time by urging that “30 to 40” people in the Gaza Strip should be killed with airstrikes each night. Italy's Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani quickly condemned the remarks, claiming that “no one can arrogate to themselves the right to take someone’s life.”

The controversial comments, which were widely circulated by Arab-language media, came as Ben Gvir was a guest on the inaugural episode of a new podcast by [Rom Braslavski](#), who was held captive by the Palestinian Islamic Jihad in Gaza for some two years.

Ben Gvir told Braslavski that he disagreed with Netanyahu’s apparent policy to scale back targeted assassinations of terrorists in the Gaza Strip as part of the negotiations over the [U.S.-backed Gaza peace plan](#).

Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir:

I think targeted eliminations should be carried out in Gaza every night — take out 30, 40. Not only those who endanger you at that particular moment.

There are people there who shouldn’t be alive. They shouldn’t live.

I’m... pic.twitter.com/IAT9LEJSb3

— Clash Report (@clashreport) [August 15, 2026](#)

“I think we should carry out targeted assassinations in Gaza, taking down 30 to 40 every night,” Ben Gvir said, stressing that this number doesn’t include only “those who pose an immediate threat. No, there are people there who are not worthy of life.”

“They shouldn’t live,” Ben Gvir continued. “They’re not even people.” He later cited as examples Gazan civilians who helped keep Braslavski in captivity even through ostensibly innocent acts, like bringing him food.

The minister added that he sees “all of Gaza as ours,” and that Israel should build settlements throughout the enclave while “encouraging as much (Palestinian) emigration as possible, sending them to their countries, and for the terrorists, no emigration, nothing, just to kill them one by one.”

Former Israeli captive Rom Braslavski asked Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir to allow him to execute Palestinian prisoners.

Ben Gvir said he would work to fulfill the request, stating that executing Palestinian prisoners is one of his “greatest dreams”. pic.twitter.com/UgG65BhCLp

— Al Jazeera English (@AJEnglish) [August 16, 2026](#)

Later in the podcast, Braslavski asked Ben Gvir, who wore a golden pin with a noose symbolizing his trademark demand to execute terrorists, to be allowed to “execute every terrorist in Israel” personally.

“Let me be the one who hangs them,” Braslavski requested, adding that he would kill them with his own hands.

Ben Gvir responded that he would “turn the world upside-down to make that happen,” adding that it is one of his “greatest dreams” to execute them “one by one.”

Netanyahu says that IDF 'made sure' Syria 'understood' that Turkey unwelcome in region | The Jerusalem Post.com

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #turkey, #syria, #military

Aug 19, 2026

IDF Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Eyal Zamir warned that Israel would act to prevent the emergence of a significant military threat from Turkey along Israel's borders.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that the IDF struck a Syrian military base after Jerusalem had given Damascus several warnings about Turkey's military presence in the country.

In his first comments since [Israel struck Syria](#) on Tuesday, Netanyahu wrote in a Wednesday post on X/Twitter that Israel "made the message clear: Don't."

לא נסבול התבססות צבאית טורקית בסוריה שמאימת על ישראל.

Don't. הבהרנו את המסר בצורה ברורה:

כנראה שלא שמעו אותו מספיק טוב, אז דאגנו שיבינו אותו בצורה טובה.
pic.twitter.com/O3FtoByEnP יותר.

— Benjamin Netanyahu - בנימין נתניהו (@netanyahu) [August 19, 2026](#)

"We will not tolerate a Turkish military entrenchment in Syria that threatens Israel," he said. "Apparently, they didn't hear it clearly enough, so we made sure they understood it better."

Why did Israel strike Syria?

On Tuesday, the IDF struck the Abu al-Duhur military airfield in Syria's Idlib. The Prime Minister's Office said that Syria was on the verge of breaching a status quo in security matters by allowing Turkish troops on the ground.

"Israel repeatedly warned Syria that such a deployment would pose a threat to Israel's security. Syria chose to ignore these warnings," the PMO said in a statement.

"Israel will not tolerate threats to its security, and would welcome a return to the status quo."

Notably, it was not reported exactly when the reported Turkish visit took place, the extent of Turkish assistance, or whether work had already begun.

IDF chief Zamir: Israel will maintain buffer zone in Syria

IDF Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. [Eyal Zamir](#) warned during a visit to southern Syria on Wednesday that Israel would not allow hostile forces to establish themselves along its borders and would use its military power wherever and whenever necessary.

During the visit, Zamir held an operational situational assessment and toured southern [Syria](#). As part of the tour, he spoke with reserve soldiers operating in the area and expressed his appreciation for their service and operational activity in the sector.

"We are operating in a multi-front reality in which the challenges are constantly changing and developing, and the Syrian arena is one of them," Zamir said.

"We see what is happening and are monitoring the changes on the [Syrian front](#), and we must prepare accordingly. We will not allow hostile forces to establish themselves on our borders, and we will know how to use our power precisely where and when it is needed.

IDF chief says that Israel will maintain Syria buffer zone

"We must prevent the development of [terrorist threats](#) while at the same time preventing the emergence of a significant military threat on our borders. In Syria as well, we have created a forward defensive area that serves as a buffer in front of the communities, where our troops operate.

"We are still in a multi-front war, remaining alert and operating across all arenas. Escalation could develop in any one of them, and we must remain constantly prepared.

"The division is doing excellent work. I want to express my appreciation for the reserve troops here. I met a high-quality, professional reserve battalion here, reservists who have served hundreds of days since the beginning of the war.

"You were called up for an extended period. I know the heavy burden on your shoulders; I appreciate what you are doing, and I am working hard to ease the burden on you and your families. The entire people of Israel owe you a great deal."

[Campus antisemitism extends beyond student protests and into classrooms, ADL warns | Foxnews.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #anti-semitism, #professors, #students, #colleges

Aug 12, 2026

A new ADL report said 27.3% of Jewish students observed antisemitic faculty behavior, documenting alleged incidents at UC Berkeley, UCLA and Columbia.

[DOJ sues UCLA over alleged failure to protect Jewish, Israeli students](#)

The Department of Justice launches a lawsuit against UCLA, citing the university's alleged indifference to discrimination and violence targeting Jewish and Israeli students during a 2024 protest where agitators beat and pepper-sprayed students. Human rights attorney Brooke Goldstein discusses how antisemitism is being politicized.

University campuses have been at the center of the national discussion about antisemitism since the beginning of the 2023 [Israel-Hamas war](#) and the wave of protests and encampments that followed. However, a new Anti-Defamation League report found that while the attention on campuses was focused on students, there was far less scrutiny over what was happening behind classroom doors.

[The report documents](#) allegations of professors and teaching assistants injecting [anti-Israel activism](#) into coursework, even going so far as to offer extra credit for attending anti-Israel events. Some have been accused of singling out Jewish and Israeli students in classroom settings.

While public attention has largely focused on student-led protests and demonstrations, the ADL said faculty conduct and curriculum choices occur in the "relative opacity of academic spaces," making them more difficult for outsiders to observe.

[FEDS OPEN PROBE INTO ANTI-ISRAEL NYC TEACHERS](#)

In January 2025, the ADL released a campus antisemitism report conducted in partnership with Hillel International and College Pulse, stating that 27.3% of Jewish students reported observing antisemitic behavior by faculty. The organization noted that its January 2025 report showed that exposure to faculty engaging in antisemitic rhetoric was associated with higher perceptions of a hostile campus environment.

The report points to several ways in which those dynamics have surfaced in classrooms, including course content and assigned readings, political activism and the treatment of Jewish and Israeli students. According to the ADL, there were reported instances of

faculty canceling classes in order for students to attend anti-Israel protests. The organization said that as part of a course at the [University of California, Berkeley](#), students were allegedly offered "extra credit" for attending a university-sponsored event series titled "Thinking from Palestine: Dispossession, Liberation, and Return."

In response to Fox News Digital's request for comment, UC Berkeley Asst. Vice Chancellor Dan Mogulof said the school had "no record of students being offered extra credit to attend the lecture in question."

This was not the only reported incident at UC Berkeley. In October 2023, just weeks after Hamas' attacks on Israel, a teaching assistant at the school [offered students extra credit](#) for participating in an anti-Israel walkout that she said was "against the settler-colonial occupation of Gaza." The email went viral and drew scrutiny from social media users. The ADL noted that the university addressed the issue, citing a policy prohibiting political indoctrination on campus.

Other schools in the UC system faced similar allegations. The ADL reported that in October 2023 a teaching assistant at UCLA allegedly told students they could receive extra credit for attending an "Emergency Teach-in on the Crisis in Palestine."

In addition to course content and incentives for participation in political events, the report also documented allegations of instances in which Jewish and Israeli students were allegedly singled out by faculty.

The ADL cited findings from [Columbia University's Task Force on Antisemitism](#), which released a report on the classroom experience at the school. The task force reported that an Israeli student was asked: "You must know a lot about settler colonialism. How do you feel about that?" In another instance, an unnamed instructor pointed at a student who held a combat role in the Israel Defense Forces and said that "she should be considered as one of the murderers."

Columbia's task force also noted that [a Jewish student](#), who was not Israeli, reported being told, "It's such a shame that your people survived in order to commit mass genocide."

In response to a request for comment, a university spokesperson provided a statement and directed Fox News Digital to [a letter](#) from Columbia's then-acting President Claire Shipman, which was released after the task force's report.

"Over the past year, Columbia has prioritized implementing the recommendations of faculty, students, staff, and the University's Task Force on Antisemitism, focusing on enhancing reporting mechanisms for bias incidents, enforcing campus protest policies to ensure non-discriminatory environments, and fostering inclusive classroom settings where Jewish students can engage in academic life without fear of harassment," the spokesperson said in a statement emailed to Fox News Digital.

"We will continue to work alongside Columbia's vibrant Jewish organizations, like Hillel and Chabad, to support their community building and improve the campus experience for our Jewish students, faculty, and staff," the spokesperson added.

The ADL argued that incidents of antisemitism involving faculty carried added weight because of the power that professors hold over students. The organization warned that "such activity from trusted professors contributes disproportionately to an unsafe and hostile environment for Jewish and non-Jewish students alike."

In its report, the ADL encouraged universities to "implement comprehensive measures" aimed at combatting antisemitism and creating a safe environment for all students.

Board-certified OBGYN warns new Massachusetts late-term abortion law exposes mothers to danger | Foxnews.com

#bibleprophecy, #abortion, #dangers, #doctors, #planned parenthood

Aug 14, 2026

As Massachusetts allows abortion up to birth, a top OBGYN and former Planned Parenthood director warn late-term procedures endanger mothers and are rarely for emergencies.

A board-certified OBGYN is pushing back against [Massachusetts](#)' new abortion law, arguing that third-trimester abortions are medically unnecessary and can put mothers at risk.

On Monday, Massachusetts became the 10th state to allow abortions throughout [pregnancy](#), drawing criticism from pro-life advocates and some medical professionals.

"If a woman's life is in danger, if she's facing a pregnancy complication beyond 24 weeks, we simply deliver her. And in fact, delivery is much more expedient than a later-in-pregnancy abortion procedure," Dr. Christina Francis, OBGYN and CEO of the American Association of Pro-Life OBGYNs, told [Fox News Digital](#).

DEM GOV MAURA HEALEY SIGNS SWEEPING MASSACHUSETTS BILL ALLOWING ABORTIONS UP TO BIRTH

Francis explained she can perform an emergency C-section in under five minutes, while an abortion later in pregnancy can take multiple days, which she said raises risks for both mother and baby.

The law, signed by Democratic Gov. Maura Healey, gives physicians broader discretion in authorizing [abortions later in pregnancy](#) while shielding them from legal penalties. Healey said the changes are meant to prevent women from having to travel out of state for abortions later in pregnancy, which she said can [complicate their care](#).

Francis criticized the law, citing concerns about the well-being of both mother and child. "There's nothing in this law that says that at 39 weeks and five days, a woman could not have an abortion. These procedures are risky for the mom. They lead to significant risk of complications," she said, adding that she believes scientific evidence shows fetuses can feel pain much earlier in pregnancy.

"The [science](#) is very clear, as early as 12 weeks of pregnancy, we know that babies feel pain, and we're talking about here dismemberment abortion procedures, where these

babies are torn limb from limb, sometimes while they're alive, sometimes after they have had a heart attack induced by an injection directly into their heart," Francis said. The question of when fetal pain becomes possible remains disputed among medical groups.

LATE-TERM ABORTION TAKES FRONT SEAT AS BLUE STATE RUSHES TO EXPAND ACCESS BEFORE SESSION ENDS

Pro-life advocates also dispute the argument that abortions later in pregnancy are performed only in rare medical emergencies. Abby Johnson, a former Planned Parenthood clinic director turned pro-life advocate, told Fox News Digital that she's seen firsthand that isn't true.

"We hear a lot of pro-choice advocates say, 'You know, well, that just doesn't happen. It only happens in these very difficult certain circumstances.' But I can tell you firsthand, as a former abortion clinic director, it's just not true," said Johnson, who now serves as CEO of And Then There Were None.

Johnson believes laws like Massachusetts' are a reaction to conservative states that have imposed [earlier limits on abortion](#), such as Texas, Florida and South Carolina.

"It feels almost like rebellion. There's a lot of states that have moved in a more conservative direction, passing heartbeat bills, passing really restrictive [legislation](#). And so we see, then the pendulum swings toward the other side," Johnson said.

She added that while many pro-choice people support abortion rights, she believes most would reject third-trimester abortions.

SANDERS-BACKED GUBERNATORIAL HOPEFUL'S PAST PRO-LIFE VIEWS CLASH WITH CURRENT ABORTION STANCE

"A lot of pro-choice people will say, 'OK, we understand abortion in the first trimester,' but this is out of step with the majority of pro-choice people. Most pro-choice people do not understand abortion at 36 weeks, an elective abortion at 36 weeks. But that is what this legislation allows," Johnson said.

Healey touted the bill as a way to aid women and families who are confronted with wrenching decisions about keeping pregnancies late in the process.

"I've heard heartbreaking stories from women and families who were preparing to welcome a healthy baby into their family, only to receive devastating news later in their pregnancy. Instead of being able to rely on the doctors they knew and trusted at home, they were forced to travel hundreds of miles and pay out of their pockets while navigating unimaginable grief," [Healey said](#).

"That should never happen in Massachusetts," she continued. "This law continues our efforts to have the strongest abortion protections in the country because in

Massachusetts, we believe healthcare decisions should be made between women and their doctors."

Fox News Digital reached out to Healey's office for comment but did not immediately receive a response.

WATCH – Quake Rocks Indonesia: Buildings Collapse, at Least 38 Reported Dead | Breitbart.com

#bibleprophecy, #earthquake, #indonesia, #destruction, #death

Aug 15, 2026

At least 38 people have perished in a powerful magnitude 7.7 earthquake that struck off the temblor-prone Indonesian coast early Saturday, collapsing buildings and homes and injuring dozens of residents.

Authorities initially issued a tsunami warning, urging coastal residents to move to higher ground. However, that notice was lifted when quake scientists reported that monitoring showed no sea level changes, NPR reported.

According to [NPR](#):

The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake hit Indonesia's Flores region with a depth of 10 kilometers (six miles) at 5:58 a.m. local time. Its epicenter was 68 km (42 miles) north-northwest of the city of Ende in East Nusa Tenggara province. The initial quake was followed by several aftershocks.

The head of the National Disaster Management Agency, Suharyanto, said rescuers have recovered at least 38 bodies, mostly in the three devastated regencies of Sikka, Manggarai and East Manggarai, including 16 bodies that were pulled from a landslide in the village of Reok in Manggarai. At least 13 people were rushed to nearby hospitals, including two with serious injuries.

Suharyanto, an official in a region where people go by only one name, also said three helicopters and a rescue boat were deployed to assist with logistics and support emergency response operations, including possible evacuations if needed.

East Nusa Tenggara's geography consists of numerous islands and presents significant transportation and access challenges, authorities said. Some 2,000 villagers in the Nagekeo area fled their homes and went to temporary shelters.

East Nusa Tenggara Police Chief Rudi Darmoko reported that the temblor severely damaged and collapsed buildings, also resulting in power outages that are impacting communications and search and rescue.

"We are continuing to collect reports of damage and casualties, but there are communication disruptions," Darmoko said.

Students at St. Peter Major Seminary in Sikka narrowly missed fatal consequences while attending morning Mass and had to flee in panic when the roof of an assembly hall collapsed, according to seminary rector Rev. Guidelbertus Tanga.

“Our students and nuns ran out in panic beneath a collapsing roof,” Tanga said. “At least one priest suffered a broken leg after jumping from the second floor of a building during the quake.”

Indonesia is a vast archipelago of more than 17,000 islands and is subject to quakes and volcanic activity because of its location on what’s commonly called the “Ring of Fire,” an arc of volcanoes and fault lines in the Pacific Basin.

In 1992, a powerful undersea earthquake produced a tsunami that killed about 2,500 people on Flores, part of a group of islands in the eastern half of Indonesia.

[UMC pastor, Democratic nominee for Senate says atheists, non-Christians 'going to be in Heaven' | Christian Post.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #pastor, #apostasy, #heaven, #non-christians, #salvation

Aug 14, 2026

A Kansas pastor and Democratic nominee for the U.S. Senate told his church in a newly resurfaced sermon that people from all religions will be saved.

A Kansas pastor and Democratic nominee for the U.S. Senate told his church in a newly resurfaced sermon that he believes people from all religions will inherit eternal life apart from the saving work of Jesus Christ.

The Rev. Adam Hamilton, senior pastor of the multi-campus United Methodist Church (UMC) of the Resurrection in Leawood, [won](#) the Kansas Democratic Party nomination for the Senate on Aug. 4 amid a crowded field of 11 Democratic candidates.

Hamilton, 62, will challenge Republican incumbent Sen. Roger Marshall in November.

In a [2022 clip](#) titled “Who goes to Heaven? Who goes to Hell?” Hamilton asked his congregation, “Does everybody else who doesn’t see through your same lens as clearly as you do, is everyone else going to burn forever in Hell because they don’t?”

He cited [1 Timothy 2:3–6](#), noting God’s desire that all people be saved, and explained that Jesus “has already paid whatever price needs to be paid for the sins of the world.” Hamilton continued, “Many of us believe that God can give the saving work of Jesus, God can take that payment Jesus has made and apply it to anyone he chooses based upon what he sees of their own hearts.”

Hamilton then compared this to the salvation of young children or those unable to comprehend the faith, and asked whether God is able to apply this same grace to those who haven't believed in Jesus.

“Is it not possible that there are people who love God with all their heart and love their neighbors as they love themselves, just like Jesus said with the great commandments, and God sees that and realizes that they were yearning for him even if they didn’t know it?” he said. “And so the saving grace of God through Jesus is applied to them.”

Hamilton said he believes “there’s going to be a whole lot of people you’d be surprised are going to be in Heaven because of the grace of God. And when it comes to other faiths, I believe as a Christian that they are going to, when they get to Heaven, they’re going to see Jesus and they’re going to say, ‘Oh, it was you all along that I was searching for.’ But I don’t fear that those folks will spend eternity in Hell.”

He further characterized his position as the official stance of the Catholic Church and the view held by some mainline Protestant theologians. Hamilton also said Christians are still called to love neighbors of every faith as “God’s offspring” and “siblings” of every Christian.

“Here's one thing I'm certain of: Jesus calls us to love our neighbors and even our enemies. We're to practice love that includes our neighbors who are Muslim, our neighbors who are Jewish, our neighbors who are Hindu, our neighbors who are Buddhist, or atheists, or agnostic,” said Hamilton. “There's just no question that we're called to love, and we're called to see them as God's offspring.”

“They are our siblings, even if we don't share the same faith,” he added.

Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, was among the critics of the newly resurfaced Hamilton sermon, taking to his X account to label it “heretical.” Cruz's post also referenced Democratic Senate nominee James Talarico of Texas, who has separately faced criticism over past comments on gender, Jesus and God.

“Why do Democrats keep nominating 'preachers' who reject the central tenets of Christianity?” he [tweeted](#).

“This heretical 'sermon' directly contradicts the Bible,” he added, quoting [John 14:6](#), which reads “Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’” That verse had been read earlier in the same worship service ahead of Hamilton's sermon.

A graduate of Oral Roberts University in 1985, Hamilton holds a Master of Divinity from Southern Methodist University. He's married to LaVon Hamilton and has two children and a grandchild, and is the author of more than 30 books.

A theological liberal who long advocated for the UMC to change its long-held opposition to same-sex marriage, he served during former President Barack Obama's second term on a faith-based advisory council and [delivered the sermon](#) at Obama's second inaugural prayer service.