



SIGNS OF THE TIMES

News Articles for Episode 386

[Iran stresses ties to Russia, China moves on from 2015 deal | The Jerusalem Post.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #iran, #russia, #china, #alliance

Oct 19, 2025

Iran is working with China and Russia as it seeks to move on from the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or “Iran Deal.”

Iran is working with China and Russia as it seeks to move on from the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or “[Iran deal](#),” aiming for Iran’s emergence from any kind of crisis over its nuclear program. The Islamic Republic of Iran also wants the veneer of legality so that it can make choices about the future of its nuclear program, both the military and ostensibly peaceful aspects.

Iranian state media IRNA noted on October 19 that “Iran, China, and Russia have written a joint letter to the United Nations secretary-general, affirming termination of UN Security Council ([UNSC](#)) Resolution 2231 concerning the Islamic Republic’s peaceful nuclear energy program.”

Resolution 2231 was the 2015 resolution concerning the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action or what was known as the Iran deal.

The goal of the deal was to make sure Iran didn’t enrich uranium toward a nuclear weapon. In exchange, Iran got relief from sanctions. The United States walked away from the Iran deal in 2018. European countries continued with the program but recently announced a [snapback](#) of sanctions.

French daily *Le Monde* noted that “Iran said on Saturday, October 18, that it was no longer bound by restrictions on its nuclear program as a landmark 10-year deal between it and world powers expired.”

Iran said it is still committed to diplomacy. IRNA called China and Russia “allies” and noted that they “affirm that in accordance with operative paragraph 8 of Resolution 2231, all its provisions are terminated after 18 October 2025.” This suggests that we can now mark the end of the Iran deal, which lasted from July 20, 2015, to October 18, 2025.

The deal 'a piece of history'

The deal was considered a major achievement by the Obama administration and its foreign policy chief, John Kerry. It would now appear to be a piece of history.

“Upon ratification, it mandated suspension of nuclear-related sanctions against the Islamic Republic. The United States, though, left the deal and returned its sanctions in an illegal and unilateral move in 2018,” IRNA noted.

The report in Iranian media also said that the US has been pushing for “snapback” since 2020. “The US’s European allies then succumbed to American pressure, betraying a pledge to return Washington to the deal and also suspending their own trade with the Islamic Republic.”

IRNA added that “Earlier this year, the European states – namely the UK, France, and Germany – tried their hand at triggering the 'snapback' mechanism that led to restoration of the sanctions late last month.”

The Iran-Russia-China letter

The Iran-Russia-China letter says that “The E3, having themselves ceased to perform their commitments under both the JCPOA and Resolution 2231 and also failing to exhaust the procedures of the Dispute Resolution Mechanism (DRM), lacks the standing to invoke its provisions.” The reports in Iran ended on a positive note, “the diplomats finally called on all parties to create a favorable atmosphere and conditions for diplomatic efforts.”

Iran’s Foreign Minister [Abbas Araghchi](#) cheered the joint letter. He published parts of it on October 19. “China, Iran and Russia affirm that the attempt by E3 to trigger the so-called snapback is, by default, legally and procedurally flawed,” Araghchi wrote.

Meanwhile, Iran continues its outreach to Turkey. The Islamic Republic has a new consul in Erzurum, Turkey. The new consul met with Iran’s foreign minister, Iranian state media noted. “At this meeting, the foreign minister also emphasized the importance of relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey and the need to strengthen cooperation between the two countries, especially in the economic and consular fields.”

MELVILLE)Meanwhile, Iran’s Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi outlined five key documents issued by other countries that “clearly and substantively” critique the E-3 European countries’ “attempt to reinstate previously lifted sanctions under UN Security Council Resolution 2231, deeming the move invalid and illegal.”

This is part of Iran’s full-court press to win the support of other countries in the world for its actions. “The senior diplomat emphasized that the declaration by the Group of Friends in Defense of the UN Charter, backed by all 18 member states, praised Iran’s continued commitment to dialogue and condemned the European snapback attempt as legally and procedurally baseless – citing the US withdrawal from the nuclear deal and Europe’s failure to uphold its obligations.”

Iran did not name the various countries, but they appear linked to the Non-Aligned Movement.

IRNA noted that at the “19th Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), held in Kampala, Uganda, on October 15-16, all 121 member states reaffirmed their commitment to multilateralism and the timeline set by Resolution 2231.”

Iran also reached out to Egypt to discuss Gaza and Middle East issues.

Araghchi spoke to Badr Abdelatty, the Egyptian foreign minister. Abdelatty said last week that Egypt was moving forward to support the Trump Gaza peace plan. Egypt had told the Allied Press (AP) that 15 Palestinian technocrats had been selected to administer Gaza. However, the Rafah crossing remains closed, and it is unclear how progress can be made.

Last week, Iran’s Culture and Islamic Guidance minister praised ties with Turkey.

“The two governments have had and continue to have good relations and common positions on various issues,” Abbas Salehi said in a meeting with Hejazi Kerlanik, the Turkish ambassador to Tehran.

Salehi added, “The relations between the peoples of Iran and Turkey are old and historical, and the two governments have had and continue to have good relations and common positions on various issues. God willing, we will end the year 2025 with high-quality cultural programs in Iran and Turkey.”

‘Turkey wants to replace Iran and encircle Israel’ | Israel Today

#bibleprophecy, #iran, #turkey, #israel, #erdogan

Oct 17, 2025

Israeli observers warn that Ankara could emerge as a major winner from the Gaza deal, with dangerous repercussions for the region.

Under the personal and ideologically-driven Islamist direction of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Turkey aspires to actively construct a strategic encirclement of Israel, an Israeli terrorism expert has warned, days after reports emerged stating that the Trump administration is weighing allowing Ankara to purchase F-35 fighter jets.

Turkey's willingness to back US President Donald Trump's 20-point truce plan has reportedly increased its chances of acquiring the stealth aircraft, though this has yet to be confirmed.

Dr. Ely Karmon, a senior research scholar at the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism at Reichman University in Herzliya and a member of the Israeli non-partisan group Coalition for Regional Security, told JNS in recent days, "If Erdoğan's plan to take over Syria in the military domain succeeds and he receives approval for a military force, legitimacy and Qatari money for construction in Gaza, Turkey will largely replace the Iranian dream of enclosing Israel in a more dangerous military and political ring."

Karmon warned that "when it comes to Israel, Erdoğan is the one who sets Turkey's policy and he is personally responsible for the deterioration of bilateral relations between the countries for years. Erdoğan has strong anti-Israel feelings, based on deep-rooted religious beliefs. Erdoğan simply despises Israel."

Karmon explained that this animosity is channeled through a calculated political strategy. "President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan attaches great importance to the Palestinian issue, presenting himself as the protector of the Palestinians and of the holy Islamic sites in Jerusalem," he said. "By exploiting the Palestinian issue, Erdoğan is trying to present Turkey to the Arab public as a leading power in the Middle East and to achieve Islamic legitimacy in the region."

This strategy has included long-standing and overt support for the Hamas terrorist organization. In March 2006, Erdoğan invited a high-ranking Hamas delegation to visit Turkey, immediately after its success in the Palestinian Legislative Council elections, Karmon recalled, contrary to the advice of his advisers and the positions of the Turkish media.

“Since then, political and operational relations with Hamas have continued to grow,” Karmon said.

He noted that this backing became tangible when, in May 2010, the *Mavi Marmara*, a Turkish ship carrying a large Turkish militant group from the Foundation for Human Rights and Humanitarian Relief (IHH), led an international flotilla that tried to break the Israeli security blockade of the Gaza Strip.

Ankara’s influence campaign has also extended into Israel itself. “Relations with the northern wing of the Islamic Movement in Israel [itself banned in 2015] also strengthened, as both share a common ideology and their goal is to promote Jerusalem as an issue in the radical Islamic discourse,” Karmon stated.

“About 63 million dollars donated by the Turkish government were transferred to organizations in East Jerusalem dedicated to the protection and strengthening of the Muslim heritage and character of Jerusalem. Some of the money financed the Murabitun movement (which includes male radical Islamist activists) and the Murabitat (which includes female activists), who harassed and physically attacked Jews visiting the Temple Mount.”

Following the Oct. 7, 2023, massacre by Hamas, Erdoğan’s rhetoric reached a new level of vitriol.

“On Oct. 11, 2023, Erdoğan said that Israel’s siege and bombing of Gaza in response to the Hamas attack was a disproportionate response, a ‘massacre’ in his words, but he did not condemn the Hamas massacre of civilians,” Karmon said.

This escalated significantly when Erdoğan stated in March 2024 that Ankara “firmly supports” Hamas.

“‘No one can make us declare Hamas a terrorist organization,’ the Turkish president said in a speech in Istanbul, while comparing Prime Minister Netanyahu and the Israeli government to ‘Hitler, Mussolini and Stalin, like the Nazis of today,’” Karmon said.

This rhetoric was followed by action, with Erdoğan severing all economic ties with Israel in April 2024 and joining South Africa’s ICJ petition accusing Israel of genocide.

Karmon warned that Turkey is now leveraging the collapse of the Assad regime to dramatically increase its influence in Syria, with direct implications for Israel.

“With the fall of the Assad regime and the decline in the status of its two major allies, Russia and Iran, in Syria, Turkey seized the opportunity to significantly increase its influence in the country in the field of defense (among others), in an apparent attempt to turn Syria into a Turkish protectorate,” he said.

He pointed to a January 2025 statement by Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, who declared that in this “new era ... Turkey is the shepherd and protector” of all groups in Syria.

This ambition is backed by force, with some 90,000 fighters of the Turkish-backed Syrian National Army (SNA) operating in the country, an organization that surrounds Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa, and which has been accused of kidnappings, extortion and other crimes.

According to an Oct. 10 report by the Washington, DC-based Foundation for Defense of Democracies, Erdoğan left a previous trip to Washington empty-handed on his request for F-35 fighter jets.

However, a report in *The National Interest* from Oct. 10 noted that Turkey is moving to purchase Eurofighter Typhoons from Qatar, signaling its intent to upgrade its air force regardless.

As part of the recent US-brokered hostage deal, the American compensation appears particularly far-reaching. According to an October 8 report in the Turkish *Daily Sabah* newspaper, Erdoğan was promised the supply of F-35 aircraft, and he is slated to a legitimate player in the Gaza agreement’s implementation process.

Oded Ailam, a former head of the Counterterrorism Division in the Mossad and currently a researcher at the Jerusalem Center for Security and Foreign Affairs (JCSFA), has warned of Turkey’s destructive role.

In a recent analysis for *Mako*, Eilam argued that it “is difficult to ignore the deep aspirations of the current Turkish president,” which he described as the wish to resurrect the Ottoman empire and turn into a modern sultan.

He added that this is occurring alongside a strengthening of the Turkish–Egyptian military cooperation, which included meetings this year between the chiefs of staff of both countries and discussions on joint development of military industries, and maneuvers.

“In the past decade, Turkey has not only strengthened its fleet with purchases of advanced submarine types, developed a light aircraft carrier, and purchased naval attack weapons, it has also strengthened its cooperation with other countries in the Middle East,” Eilam said.

Israel is not the only country facing this neo-Ottoman vision, he said, naming Greece and Cyprus as others that must deal with increasing Turkish dominance.

“Israel can celebrate the [Gaza] agreement, but not fall asleep instead of standing on guard,” Eilam cautioned. “If the Mediterranean Sea is a game board, Erdogan has already placed more than a queen on it. He placed a whole fleet.”

[Russia, Iran move to expand operations | The Jerusalem Post.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #russia, #iran, #nuclear

Oct 21, 2025

"Russia is definitely ready to expand cooperation with Iran in all areas. Iran is our partner, and our relations are developing very dynamically," a Kremlin spokesperson said.

[Russia](#) is prepared to expand cooperation with Iran in all areas, the Kremlin said on Monday.

Moscow has close relations with Tehran and condemned US and Israeli strikes on [Iranian nuclear sites](#) earlier this year that were carried out with the stated aim of preventing Tehran from acquiring a nuclear bomb. Iran denies building a nuclear weapon.

Asked by reporters how [Russia](#) saw the development of events around Iran's nuclear program and if Moscow would deepen ties with Tehran, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said:

JPost Videos

"Russia is definitely ready to expand cooperation with Iran in all areas. Iran is our partner, and our relations are developing very dynamically."

Russia and Iran move to expand operations

Peskov said European countries were putting "excessive pressure" on Iran in regards to negotiations over its nuclear program, adding that the situation was "very complicated."

An envoy for Russian President [Vladimir Putin](#) is set to meet with Iran's Supreme National Security Council Secretary Ali Larijani later on Monday, less than a week after Larijani met with the Kremlin leader and handed him a message from Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Putin and his Iranian counterpart Masoud Pezeshkian signed a strategic partnership agreement in January, although the pact does not contain a mutual defense clause. Moscow says it legally supplies Tehran with military equipment, while Iran has provided Russia with drones to use in its war in Ukraine.

Russian state nuclear energy giant Rosatom signed a \$25-billion deal last month with Iran to build four nuclear power plants in the country, which suffers from electricity

shortages and currently has only one operating nuclear power plant, built by Russia in the southern city of Bushehr.

[A third of Americans say the Bible is accurate, survey finds | Christianpost.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #bible, #americans, #church, #survey

Oct 19, 2025

Americans are split on the accuracy of the Bible, as the public remains divided about institutional trust in religion and the family, a new study finds.

The American Bible Society released the seventh chapter of its "State of the Bible USA 2025" report on Tuesday. The research, which focuses on Americans' levels of trust in several institutions, including religion and the Bible, is based on responses from 2,656 American adults collected in online interviews between Jan. 2 and Jan. 21.

When asked if they agreed that "the Bible is totally accurate in all the principles it presents," 36% of respondents answered in the affirmative, while 39% disagreed.

"A half-century ago, Americans generally trusted the Bible. Attitudes are more complex these days," said John Farquhar Plake, chief innovation officer at the American Bible Society and editor-in-chief of the State of the Bible series, in a [statement](#) reacting to the findings of the research.

An overwhelming majority of practicing Christians (88%) — those who say they are Christian, attend church at least once a month and consider their faith "very important" in their lives — believed in the total accuracy of the Bible, while 4% did not and the rest were unsure.

Among nominal Christians — people who consider themselves Christian but do not attend church at least once a month — 32% do not view the Bible as entirely accurate, while 29% do.

About 45% of casual Christians, those who go to church at least once a month but do not consider their faith "very important," characterized the Bible as totally accurate, while 23% took the opposite view. The overwhelming majority of non-Christians (70%) did not agree that the Bible is totally accurate, while 12% embraced the opposite position.

Nearly a quarter (24%) of those surveyed agreed that "the Bible is just another book of teachings written by people that contains stories and advice." A majority of "nones" (60%) — those who do not practice any religion — embraced this idea.

Eighteen percent of the public indicated that they believe the Bible was "written to control or manipulate other people," including 50% of "nones." On the other hand, a majority (58%) of Americans agreed that "the message of the Bible has transformed my life."

Plake says the data shows the nation is "grappling with Scripture and its meaning for our lives."

"Our latest survey finds a mixture of belief and questioning in the American public," Plake added. "It's true that nearly one in five Americans think the Bible was written to control and manipulate, but twice that many trust the Bible as 'totally accurate in all the principles it presents.'"

On a scale of 0 to 4, with 0 indicating "no trust" and 4 indicating "very high" trust, the average level of trust in religion was 1.8. Americans were more trustworthy when it comes to families (2.4), medicine (2.2) and education (2.1). On the other hand, the average level of trust was lower for arts and entertainment (1.6), business (1.6), government (1.2) and the media (1.1).

A total of just over one-sixth (17%) of those surveyed reported having "no trust" in religion, with higher percentages expressing "no trust" in the government (22%) and the media (29%). Meanwhile, much smaller shares of Americans told pollsters they had "no trust" in families (3%), medicine (5%) and education (5%).

Broken down by level of Scripture engagement, Scripture-engaged respondents who scored the highest on the Scripture Engagement Scale, measuring the impact and centrality of the Bible on their lives, had higher average levels of trust in the family (2.7) than their counterparts with lower Scripture engagement scores in both the movable middle and the Bible disengaged categories (2.5).

Similarly, the Scripture-engaged had higher average levels of trust in the Bible (2.8) than the movable middle (2.3) and the Bible disengaged (1.2).

[EU's plan to phase out Russian energy clears first political hurdle | Reuters.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #european union, #russia, #oil

Oct 8, 2025

- Summary
- EU considering phase-out of Russian oil and gas by January 2028
- Ambassadors agree to forward proposal to ministers - diplomats
- Ministers' meeting planned for October 20

BRUSSELS, Oct 8 (Reuters) - European Union countries' ambassadors on Wednesday agreed to move ahead with the bloc's plan to end Russian oil and gas imports by 2028, EU diplomats said, clearing the law's first political hurdle before governments vote on it later this month.

The EU is negotiating legal proposals to phase out Russian oil and gas by January 2028, attempting to deprive the Kremlin of revenues to fund its [war in Ukraine](#).

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In a closed-door meeting on Wednesday, EU ambassadors agreed to forward the proposed law to their ministers for approval at a meeting on October 20, three diplomats told Reuters.

NEARLY ALL EU COUNTRIES SIGNAL SUPPORT

The diplomats said nearly all EU countries had signalled support for the plans, suggesting it will easily pass - despite criticism from Hungary and Slovakia, whose governments want to maintain close ties with Russia.

Negotiations are ongoing on technical changes ahead of the October 20 vote.

One outstanding issue is whether liquefied natural gas exports to Europe must be both pre-authorised before delivery and have their origin checked by customs authorities when they arrive at EU ports, to ensure they are not Russian.

France and Italy have said they support the overall plan, but want shipments to either be pre-authorised - if authorities can enforce this fast enough - or instead checked by authorities upon arrival in the EU, to enforce the ban, EU diplomats said.

Italy's EU representation and France's energy ministry did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

If approved, the law would end Europe's decades-old reliance on Russian oil and gas - phasing out Russian gas imports under new contracts from January 2026, then existing short-term contracts from June 2026, and long-term contracts in January 2028.

Countries including Hungary, France and Belgium still import Russian gas - which accounts for 12% of EU gas imports, down from 45% before Russia's 2022 full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

The law would oblige Hungary and Slovakia - the two countries still importing Russian oil - to set national plans to halt these imports by 2028.

A "qualified majority" of EU member states - meaning at least 55% of them - must approve the plans. Once that happens, EU countries and lawmakers will negotiate the final law.

Separately, the EU is also negotiating a new package of sanctions against Russia to ban LNG one year earlier, in January 2027.

Children's Bibles, devotionals offer inclusive take on traditional stories | Fox News.com

#bibleprophecy, #bible, #children, #diversity, #social justice, #corruption

Oct 19, 2025

Faith books emphasize diversity, inclusion and justice for children ages 4 to 17

A crop of new children's storybook Bibles aims to reach progressive Christians who are turned off by traditional presentations of Scripture, offering messages focused on [diversity, inclusion](#) and social justice.

Publishers say the projects are meant to reflect the faith values of a changing audience — and to fill what they describe as a gap in faith resources for progressive believers.

"The Just Love Story Bible," a "justice-oriented" storybook for readers ages four to 10, was released last month. The book, authored by Rev. Jacqui Lewis and the Rev. Shannon Daley-Harris, features 52 Bible stories and illustrations portraying characters in Black, Brown and tan skin tones.

"Our agenda is to teach young people a theology of love and justice that we don't have to unlearn," Lewis said in an interview with [Religion News Service](#).

"The biblical characters mostly look Black and Brown and caramel... now White children, I imagine, looking in this Bible and seeing brown people and thinking to themselves, 'Oh, brown people belong to God, too,'" she added.

The authors said they also hope to prompt children to ask questions and challenge [traditional beliefs](#) about God, Jesus and the biblical narrative.

"Did that happen?" Lewis said, describing how the storybook presents Jesus' resurrection. "For me, it matters more that children know that love never dies, so that's where I landed."

"It's OK to actually tell kids from the get-go: Some of these stories are about true people and things that really happened, and some of them are made-up stories, but they're in there because they can still teach us true things about God," Daley-Harris said, referencing the story of Jonah.

The authors acknowledged that readers who interpret the Bible literally may not be the right audience for their book.

"There will be a group of sort of literalist or fundamentalist folks for whom this isn't a welcome resource," Daley-Harris said. "But it's been really interesting to see the reception from not just folks who are raised progressive, but those who are raised in a tradition that no longer fit them, who did grow out of a theology and are looking for one that they can grow into and grow with alongside their children."

Lewis said the book also highlights women in Jesus' ministry and portrays him as a "feminist."

"When Shannon and I say we don't want children to learn something they have to unlearn, we don't want them to learn patriarchy from this story Bible," she told RNS.

The book's publisher, Beaming Books, says it hopes to reach [progressive Christians](#) seeking an "open-minded Bible."

"We noticed a gap in the marketplace for people who are looking for a more open-minded Bible for progressive Christians, one that is focused on love and justice," said Naomi Krueger, senior acquisitions' editor for Beaming Books, in an interview with [Publishers Weekly](#).

"Its countercultural message is really appropriate for this time," Krueger added, saying the book is intended to be "an antidote to Christian white supremacy."

"The Just Love Story Bible" is one of several new titles pushing for broader representation in children's Christian publishing.

Hodder Faith, a U.K.-based Christian imprint, released "Come and See: An Invitation to a Radical Encounter with Jesus," last month. The devotional book, aimed at readers 11 and up, was written by Shannon T.L. Kearns, described as the first openly transgender man ordained to the Old Catholic priesthood, according to the author's biography.

"If you want to take children into the Bible and still be respected as an LGBTQ person, there are not a lot of resources for you," Hodder Faith publishing director Andy Lyon told Publishers Weekly. "It's called 'Come and See,' because it's about being seen and knowing you belong. You see Jesus and then Jesus sees you."

Another devotional, "Growing in God's Love: A Family Devotional," is out from Westminster John Knox Press. The book offers daily readings that bring "substantive, progressive lessons in faith for all generations," and is aimed at adults and children ages five to 17.

Author Jessica Miller Kelley, an editor at Westminster John Knox, said she intentionally avoided using gendered language such as "mother" or "father" in the devotionals, except when directly quoting Scripture, to make the stories more inclusive of gender diversity and different kinds of families, she told Publishers Weekly.

The book's early readers praised its emphasis on justice, inclusivity and diversity.

Krueger said in the report that progressive Christians are looking for more resources that affirm their values – and expects the number of such projects to grow.

[One in five Christians have paid for or had an abortion: poll | Christianpost.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #christians, #abortion, #survey, #bible

Oct 21, 2025

Nearly one-in-five churchgoers have paid for, encouraged or chosen to have an abortion themselves, according to a new report that reveals most say their churches rarely address the topic.

The Family Research Council, in conjunction with the Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University, released a [survey](#) examining the views of American churchgoers based on 1,003 responses collected in July.

Nineteen percent of respondents answered in the affirmative when asked if they had paid for, encouraged or chosen to have an abortion.

David Closson, director of the FRC Center for Biblical Worldview, reacted to this finding in an interview with The Christian Post.

“I think it’s important for us, as believers, to realize the issue of abortion and the value of human life is not one that is merely theoretical, but it affects, in a very personal way, almost 20 percent of the people that are in our congregations,” he said.

“This issue is one that is personal, and it’s one that, I think, pastors in particular need to be recommitted to applying God’s Word.”

Closson pointed to [Psalm 139: 13-16](#) and [Luke 1:39-45](#) as Bible verses that outline the church’s position on abortion.

“There are people who have been hurt and stung by the sin of abortion, and what an opportunity to speak truth into those situations,” he added.

Forty-three percent of churchgoers characterized themselves as “pro-life” on the issue of abortion, while 35% considered themselves “pro-choice.” Eight percent of those surveyed indicated that they “lean toward pro-choice but could be convinced otherwise,” while 7% told pollsters that they “lean toward pro-life but could be convinced otherwise.”

Less than half (41%) of churchgoers stated that their churches talked about abortion multiple times throughout the year. Thirteen percent reported that abortion comes up at their church once a year, while 12% maintained that the topic is discussed once every year, and 23% said their churches never talk about abortion.

A plurality of those surveyed (38%) wanted to see their church talk about abortion “about as often as it currently does,” while 25% preferred it if their church discussed the topic “more often than it has in recent years” and 18% expressed a desire for their church to teach on the topic “less often than it has in recent years.”

When asked which of a series of statements most closely corresponded with the teachings of the Bible, 26% selected “Abortion is not acceptable under any circumstances.”

Nineteen percent of churchgoers responded that “Abortion is acceptable only when the life of the mother is endangered,” while roughly equal shares of respondents didn't know about the Bible's teachings on abortion (16%) or thought that the biblical perspective was not reflected in any of the statements provided.

Twelve percent believed that the Bible teaches that “Abortion is acceptable only if the child will be born with significant mental or physical challenges,” while 9% maintained that “determining to have or not have an abortion is up to the couple involved,” and 4% thought that the Bible teaches that “abortion is acceptable under any circumstances.”

Regarding political candidates, less than half of churchgoers (46%) cited biblical teaching about abortion and considerations about a candidate's character as the primary factors that influence their votes in elections. The most commonly cited phrase used by respondents to describe their political beliefs was “mostly conservative” (19%), followed by “mostly moderate” (18%), “consistently conservative” (15%), “consistently moderate” (12%) and “mostly progressive or liberal” (11%).

Ten percent of respondents maintained that their political views vary “based on the issue,” while 9% characterized their political philosophy as “consistently progressive or liberal.” Five percent said they were not sure about their political philosophy, while 3% contended that they did not pay enough attention to politics to form an opinion.

The findings on the number of churchgoers who have paid for, encouraged or have had an abortion show a slight increase from [2023](#), when the FRC Center for Biblical Worldview report found that 16% of respondents said they had done one of those three things.

Americans return to church following Charlie Kirk assassination | Fox News.com

#bibleprophecy, #bible sales, #church, #americans, #charlie kirk

Oct 12, 2025

Bible Belt pastors corroborate that Kirk's death increased church attendance

As waves of shock rippled through America on Sept. 10, 2025, after Charlie Kirk was assassinated, the sorrow of losing a "brother in Christ" was felt in the Bible Belt of the United States.

"We immediately prayed for him to make it through. But then, just kind of hearing that he had passed, there was definitely a sorrow just as a brother in Christ," Dr. Trenton Stewart, lead pastor of Foothills Church in Knoxville, Tenn., told [Fox News Digital](#).

"[Seeing Kirk] killed essentially for [an] opinion, that just sparks something deep within our DNA. The unfairness of that, the unjustness of that — that's why we saw so many people pick up a Bible [and] go to church for the first time ever," he continued.

The days following Kirk's death saw people called to [return to church and purchase Bibles](#) after the 31-year-old's assassination at Utah Valley University.

Stewart said the first weekend after Kirk's death, Foothills Church experienced a 65% jump in first-time guests — something that was "definitely felt."

Social media users shared testimonies of feeling compelled to reconnect with their faith and deepen their relationship with God after Kirk's death.

One [user from Florida](#) posted a TikTok about her experience, citing that she felt "woken up" after the incident.

Another man said that [Charlie Kirk "won" him](#) over, finding "peace" after the "rage and sorrow" he felt from Kirk's assassination after reading the Bible.

Another woman posted about her experience buying [her first Bible at 37-years-old](#), writing "#CharlieKirk."

According to the [American Bible Society](#), 2024 marked a 20-year high in U.S. Bible sales, with 17 million copies sold. As of August 2025, sales had already reached 10 million.

"People resonated with his message, because if you're a person of faith, you believe what he was teaching," he added.

"The message of [Charlie Kirk](#) is going to go on and on and on, not because it was centered on Republican or conservative politics, but because it was centered on the Word of God," Dr. Robert Jeffress of First Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas, said.

Pastor Stewart went on to say that Kirk's death gave him "courage," adding, "We should all aspire to be like [Charlie Kirk.]"

"Be ready for the blowback and don't become discouraged if everybody doesn't receive your message," Jeffress said. "Most people at Jesus, during Jesus' lifetime, they rejected his message. They crucified him, but he rose again, and he's going to have the final word in human history."