



SIGNS OF THE TIMES

News Articles for Episode 422

Erdogan turns Turkey toward open confrontation with Israel | Israel Today.com

#bibleprophecy, #erdogan, #turkey, #israel, #enemies

Jun 28, 2026

Turkish President **Recep Tayyip Erdogan** has sharpened his confrontation with Israel, declaring this week that the struggle against Zionism is a matter of national survival for Turkey.

“The genocidal, occupying, expansionist ideology called Zionism threatens not only me, not only our party, not only our alliance — it threatens everyone,” Erdogan said. “When we struggle against Zionism, we are not waging this struggle for ourselves or for personal reasons. We are doing it for our own survival and for the survival of our nation.”

The language was not ordinary criticism of Israeli policy. It was civilizational language, casting Zionism — the national movement of the Jewish people — as an existential enemy. The tone was less diplomatic than ideological, and increasingly resembles the vocabulary of Tehran more than that of a NATO member state.

Israel’s Foreign Ministry responded sharply, calling Erdogan a “dictator” who persecutes political opponents, imprisons journalists, targets Kurds, occupies part of Cyprus, and supports jihadist groups. The ministry said Erdogan was now attacking “the Middle East’s only democracy,” adding pointedly: “Erdogan will pass. Israel will remain forever.”

The dictator who persecutes political opponents, imprisons journalists, massacres Kurds, occupies the territory of Cyprus and backs jihadist groups is now attacking the Middle East’s only democracy.

The same democracy that extended its hand in peace to Lebanon just yesterday....
<https://t.co/y194h8K6tu>

— Israel Foreign Ministry (@IsraelMFA) [June 27, 2026](#)

The timing is notable. Jerusalem had just welcomed a US-brokered framework of understandings with [Lebanon](#), aimed at weakening Hezbollah’s grip and reducing Iran’s leverage north of Israel. Erdogan, by contrast, appears to be placing Turkey in a more openly hostile posture toward Israel, even as Ankara maintains ties with Hamas and has suspended trade with the Jewish state since the Gaza war.

Then came Israel's second message — quieter, but perhaps more historically devastating.

On Sunday, the Israeli government voted to recognize the genocide committed against Armenians, Assyrians, and Greeks by Ottoman Turkish forces in the early 20th century. Foreign Minister **Gideon Sa'ar** called the move a “moral and historical duty,” and said Israel must reject denial, minimization, and distortion of the historical record. The resolution is expected to move next to the Knesset.

For years, Israel avoided formal recognition, partly to preserve relations with Ankara. That restraint made sense when Turkey still pretended to play the role of regional bridge. Erdogan has now burned much of that bridge himself.

Erdogan wants to position Turkey as Israel's new ideological adversary. But in doing so, he is forcing Jerusalem to shed old illusions — about Ankara, about diplomacy, and about the cost of silence.

For Israel, the age of polite ambiguity is ending. Israelis are hoping the same will soon be true for President [Donald Trump](#) and the United States.

[New limited-edition US passport features Trump's image and a warning | Foxnews.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #trump, #passports, #ruler, #laws

Jun 26, 2026

President [Donald Trump](#) on Friday unveiled the inside of the new United States passport, which shows his own image gracing a page in front of the Declaration of Independence, while warning those coming to the U.S. to behave appropriately.

"The U.S.A.'s New Passport, which says, 'Welcome, but be good!' President DJT," Trump wrote in a Truth Social post accompanied by the image.

The image of one page shows a stern-looking Trump over his signature, while another page features a mock-up of the Founding Fathers signing the Declaration of Independence, with "United States of America 250" written below.

President Donald Trump on Friday unveiled a mock-up of the page design of the U.S. passport showing him and an image of the Founding Fathers signing the Declaration of Independence. (Donald Trump; Truth Social)

Fox News Digital previously reported that the [State Department](#) would be rolling out limited-edition U.S. passports to commemorate the 250th anniversary of American independence, with Trump featured prominently.

The passports are slated to be released this summer and are part of the Trump administration's [broader "America250" celebration](#), which also includes a Grand Prix race on the National Mall in August and a UFC fight on the White House South Lawn that took place earlier this month.

[EXCLUSIVE: STATE DEPARTMENT INTRODUCES NEW US PASSPORTS CELEBRATING AMERICA250](#)

The mock-up of the new U.S. passports set to be released in commemoration of America's 250th anniversary prominently feature an image of President Donald Trump. (U.S. State Department)

A State Department official previously told Fox News Digital that the new designs will be available to "any American citizen" who applies for a passport during the rollout and will continue for as long as there is availability.

Trump's social media post comes as the U.S. has enacted [stricter vetting policies for](#) foreign visitors, explicitly demanding that tourists and nonimmigrants respect and follow U.S. laws and institutions.

The tighter rules coincide with the [2026 FIFA World Cup](#), where hundreds of thousands of foreigners have come to the U.S. to watch the games, which end in July.

[Child under 12 is euthanised in Netherlands | MSN.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #netherland, euthanasia, #children, #murder

Jun 24, 2026

For the first time since a change in the law in the Netherlands, a child under the age of 12 has died by euthanasia.

The death of the child was confirmed by the country's health minister, Sophie Hermans, as she presented the annual report by the committee that reviews all late-term abortions and medically-assisted deaths of children to parliament on Monday.

According to the report, the child was under the age of 12 and had been seriously ill, but no further details were given.

Assisted dying for terminally sick children aged from one to 12 has been legal for two years in the Netherlands. Before the change in the law, only newborns and those over 12 could be euthanised.

Under [Dutch](#) law, parents must be consulted, the child must be suffering unbearably, and there can be no chance of recovery.

The child's death has been referred to the public prosecution service, which will decide if doctors complied with the rules surrounding euthanasia.

The committee's report will be made public shortly, Ms Hermans said.

Under Dutch law, in cases of euthanasia, parents must be consulted, the child must be suffering unbearably and there can be no chance of recovery

Euthanasia in the Netherlands is only permitted if the request comes from the patient and if a doctor agrees that they are suffering unbearably.

The doctor must be satisfied that the patient is not acting under pressure and must obtain a second opinion.

Euthanasia has strong public support in the Netherlands, and the country became the first country to legalise it for those with incurable illnesses in 2002.

Before the law change, there was no clear euthanasia policy for children between the ages of one and 12 because they were believed to be unable to make their own decisions.

In England and Wales, a new attempt to legalise assisted dying was revived last week.

Lauren Edwards, the Labour MP for Rochester and Strood, has announced she will reintroduce the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill to Parliament.

The Bill, previously brought to Parliament in 2024, passed two votes in the House of Commons, but fell in the House of Lords, after peers ran out of time to conclude their debate before the end of the previous parliamentary session in April.

Ms Edwards has threatened to use rarely used powers under the Parliament Act to force it through if the Lords block it again.

Yet her efforts to push through assisted dying legislation in the new parliamentary session have been heavily criticised by other Labour MPs, amid their concerns about the time and political capital being expended on such a controversial issue.

Supporters of the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life Bill), during a photocall at Parliament Square in London, ahead of a government petition debate in Westminster Hall earlier this month

Adam Jogee, the Labour MP for Newcastle-under-Lyme, said it was 'insane' to bring back the 'deeply divisive and flawed Bill'.

Another Labour MP who is opposed to the Bill said: 'The Labour Party needs the return of the assisted dying bill like we need a hole in the head.'

Former health minister Ashley Dalton, Labour MP for West Lancashire, who has terminal cancer, said: 'I'm deeply concerned that supporters are bringing the assisted dying Bill back.

'Voters put us in power to reduce the cost of living and fix the NHS. We have debated this deeply divisive and flawed assisted dying Bill for over a year and supporters have refused to listen or to make the necessary changes.

'This Bill would hand sweeping unchecked powers over life and death and our NHS to future governments, whatever their political persuasion.

'We should not be using more of our limited time and political capital on something that simply isn't safe or a priority for the people who put us in power.'

Emma Lewell, Labour MP for South Shields, said she was 'absolutely dismayed' that the Bill is being reintroduced.

'Not a single one of our major medical or professional bodies support it,' she added.

'A deeply flawed and dangerous Bill that poses a real risk to the most vulnerable in our society.'

David Smith, Labour MP for North Northumberland, said: 'To bring assisted dying back now after it has so recently failed lacks wisdom.

'It will only deepen division and distract the Government from far bigger priorities.'

Venezuela Death Toll 2,295; Rodriguez Faces 'Humanitarian Catastrophe' | Newsmax.com

#bibleprophecy, #venezuela, #earthquakes, #destruction

Jul 1, 2026

One week after twin powerful earthquakes devastated northern Venezuela, the country is confronting one of the worst natural disasters in its modern history, with rescue workers continuing to search through collapsed buildings as the humanitarian crisis grows more severe.

As the country deals with a humanitarian catastrophe of epic proportions, there is growing criticism of the government of Acting President Delcy Rodriguez for its lack of preparedness and response.

The June 24 earthquakes, measuring magnitudes 7.2 and 7.5, struck within seconds of one another with epicenters in Yaracuy state.

The tremors were felt across much of Venezuela, but La Guaira state suffered the heaviest destruction.

According to Venezuelan authorities, at least 2,295 people have been confirmed dead as of Wednesday, with more than 10,000 injured.

Tens of thousands remain unaccounted for, leading United Nations officials to warn that the death toll is expected to rise significantly as search operations continue.

The U.N. estimates that up to 6.8 million people could be affected by the earthquakes, while NASA satellite analysis indicates that nearly 59,000 buildings were damaged or destroyed. Humanitarian agencies say many of those affected may require assistance.

U.N. Humanitarian Coordinator Gianluca Rampolla described the disaster as a growing humanitarian catastrophe, warning that hospitals, water systems, shelters, and sanitation infrastructure are under enormous strain.

Residents in some of the hardest-hit neighborhoods have spent days digging through concrete with little more than hand tools, often searching for relatives themselves.

International rescue teams have joined Venezuelan responders, leading to several dramatic rescues, including that of a 3-year-old child pulled alive from the rubble nearly a week after the earthquakes.

However, the government's emergency response has come under increasing criticism from residents, opposition figures, and some aid workers.

According to reporting by NPR, residents in affected communities alleged that rescue crews and volunteer doctors encountered delays reaching disaster zones because of police checkpoints and permit requirements.

Some residents argued those delays reduced the chances of locating survivors during the critical first 72 hours after the earthquakes.

Construction worker Julio Meléndez told NPR that bringing equipment into one disaster area required two days of administrative approvals, while resident Rosalia Bustamante said survivors were heard calling for help shortly after the collapse of a residential building but were not reached in time.

Thousands of volunteers have instead organized neighborhood rescue efforts, often recovering victims themselves while awaiting additional heavy equipment.

The disaster has also renewed debate over Venezuela's construction standards and disaster preparedness.

Engineers and urban planning experts have long warned that years of underinvestment, inadequate enforcement of building regulations and aging infrastructure left many structures vulnerable to major seismic activity.

Critics argue successive governments dating back to the Chávez era failed to modernize building codes sufficiently or invest in comprehensive earthquake preparedness, although the extent to which those factors contributed to individual building collapses will require formal engineering investigations.

The Rodriguez administration has pledged to establish temporary housing, rebuild damaged communities and assess structural safety across affected regions.

Officials have announced plans to construct replacement housing and coordinate reconstruction efforts while accepting international humanitarian assistance.

Meanwhile, aid has begun arriving from the United States, the European Union, Latin American countries, and international humanitarian organizations, including search-and-rescue teams, medical personnel, emergency supplies and financial assistance.

Despite those efforts, enormous challenges remain.

Entire neighborhoods remain in ruins, hospitals continue to operate under extraordinary pressure, and thousands of families are still searching for missing loved ones.

For many Venezuelans, the disaster has evolved beyond a natural catastrophe into a prolonged humanitarian emergency whose full human and economic costs may not be known for months.

Key impacts of the disaster:

- Confirmed deaths: 2,295 and rising
- Injured: More than 10,000 people
- Missing: Tens of thousands remain unaccounted for
- Buildings damaged or destroyed: Approximately 58,870
- People affected: Up to 6.8 million
- Displaced residents: Thousands are sleeping in parks, sidewalks, sports fields and temporary shelters
- Healthcare: Numerous hospitals have been damaged or are operating beyond capacity
- Utilities: Many communities face shortages of drinking water, electricity, sanitation and medical supplies
- Disease concerns: U.N. agencies warn of increasing risks of infectious disease outbreaks

Parasite That Affects Cognition Has Quietly Infected Billions of People | Yahoo.com

#bibleprophecy, #parasite, #cats, #infection, #health

Jun 26, 2026

One of the world's most effective parasites doesn't spread through mosquito bites or undercooked snails — but through the common house cat.

Called *toxoplasma gondii*, the parasite is a single-cell organism that primarily spreads to humans via cat turds, but also through raw or undercooked meat, contaminated water, and from a mother to her fetus. Its symptoms range from mild aches and pains to debilitating neural impairment, which makes it all the more horrifying to learn that it currently has no cure.

According to a [paper](#) published in the journal *PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases*, as [spotted by Gizmodo](#), the infection of this protozoan parasite known as "toxoplasmosis" is "one of the most common parasitic infectious diseases affecting humans," and the number one "intraocular infection" — meaning [inside the eyeball](#) — on the planet.

In the research paper, a team of international scientists makes the case that toxoplasmosis meets the criteria for recognition as a "neglected tropical disease." That designation would free up significant resources for further studies and the development of public health policy "to address the substantial burden" the parasite has on human health.

Go deeper with Yahoo Scout

- [What treatments are currently available for toxoplasmosis symptoms?](#)
- [How does toxoplasmosis affect human brain function exactly?](#)
- [What are the economic impacts of toxoplasmosis on affected families?](#)

And it is substantial. Some researchers estimate that roughly [one-third of humanity](#) — roughly two billion people — is infected with the parasite, including about 60 million people in the United States alone. Though a healthy immune system can keep the worst impacts of the eye-ball dwellers in check, worst-case scenarios can include significant damage to the eyes, brain, and nervous system.

As *Gizmodo* notes, some research has suggested that long-term toxoplasmosis leads to [personality changes](#) in infected rodents, wolves, and humans; in the latter case, it could even raise the risk of schizophrenia. One [2020 survey](#) of the parasite's impact on cognition notes that the presence of the parasite in the host can upend the brain's

ability to process dopamine, "which may alter cognitive, behavioral, and motor activities."

Justine Smith, ophthalmologist at Flinders University and one of the study's co-authors told *Gizmodo* that "there is no commercially available vaccine against toxoplasmosis. And the drugs we give patients can limit a flare-up of the disease, but there is no drug that cures it at this point."

Firmly establishing toxoplasmosis as a neglected tropical disease is key to combatting the disease, the study's authors say, especially across the global south.

Given that poor populations are already [more susceptible](#) to parasitic infection, toxoplasmosis represents "a disproportionate burden" to those living in poverty. Because it can be passed from a pregnant mother to her child, the researchers describe a horrifying scenario where the poorest families in the world become trapped in a parasitic loop.

"Infants who survive congenital infection face lifelong health consequences, such as visual and neurologic impairments, which undermine school performance, employment opportunities, and economic participation," the paper reads. "These negative outcomes contribute to the poverty trap that exists for other [neglected tropical diseases]: families already facing socioeconomic vulnerability absorb the long-term costs of disability, repeated medical visits, and lost income."

[United Methodist Church Drops Asbury Theological Seminary | Christianity Today.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #apostasy, #united methodist, #asbury seminary

Jun 26, 2026

The United Methodist Church (UMC) has removed Asbury Theological Seminary from its list of schools approved for ordination candidates, a decision the school attributes to differences over the denomination's position on traditional marriage.

In a [statement released Thursday](#), Asbury said the denomination's University Senate, which oversees affiliated educational institutions, removed the school from its approved list after a review.

"Throughout the process, we were honest and clear about our doctrinal and ethical standards, even when those differed from the recently amended Social Principles of the UMC. Their final decision to delist us was unilateral. While we had hoped for a different outcome, our focus remains steadfast on our unchanging calling," Asbury president David Watson wrote.

United Methodists adopted their most recent [social principles](#) guidelines in 2024, removing a phrase stating that [homosexuality is "incompatible with Christian teaching"](#) that had been added in 1972.

The 103-year-old Asbury, based in Wilmore, Kentucky, is the nation's largest and most prominent seminary affiliated with the Wesleyan movement. Without senate approval, Asbury graduates cannot seek ordination in the UMC. The Methodist Church initially approved Asbury in 1946, and again as the UMC approved it in 1981.

Current students and those enrolling in fall 2026 will be grandfathered in, according to Asbury's release. Around 9 percent of Asbury students identify as United Methodist.

A statement from David Graves, a bishop in the UMC in Kentucky, announced the cut to the denomination in a written statement, thanking the school for the years of partnership.

"While this decision changes the nature of the relationship between The United Methodist Church and Asbury Seminary, it does not erase our shared history. We remain deeply grateful for the generations of leaders who were formed there and for the ministry they have offered to the Church and the world," said Graves.

A UMC spokesperson said in a statement that the church removed Asbury after assessing the school's program quality, governance, institutional integrity, and "church relatedness." She said [Asbury's ethos statement](#), which includes traditional marriage, is incompatible with the church's social principles. Additionally, the school does not have a full-time UMC faculty member consistently teaching the church's history, doctrine, and polity.

The UMC also [removed](#) Northeastern Seminary, based in Rochester, New York, saying it also does not have a UMC faculty member and it mainly offers online programs without the residential standard required by the senate.

Palmer Theological Seminary, in St. Davids, Pennsylvania, and Luther Seminary, in St. Paul, Minnesota, both requested to be removed from the senate's list of approved schools, according to the denomination.

There are currently 13 United Methodist and 25 non-Methodist schools of theology approved by the senate.

Watson expressed disappointment at the denomination's decisions and said Asbury is thankful for its decades of partnership with the UMC. He said that the seminary has 4,000 living alumni affiliated with the UMC and that the school's commitment to Scripture and theology is unchanged.

"Our mission and values are the same today as they have been for more than a century," Watson wrote.

Watson told CT in a phone call Friday it was really a matter of time before this happened after the divisions in the United Methodist Church.

"We weren't surprised by this at all," Watson said. "We knew with the division of the United Methodist Church into more liberal and conservative factions that something like this would happen."

Watson said the process began at the beginning of the year when the senate conducted a regular review. Asbury was not able to sign on with the new social principles. There was no hostility, and when Asbury was told about the cut they decided not to appeal. He said he does not anticipate it will affect enrollment very much and that UMC students have been declining over the years as the theological divide has grown.

"Asbury has provided really good theological education for the United Methodists for a long time, and I lament that that's not going to be the case moving forward," Watson said.

Asbury is still approved with the Global Methodist Church (GMC), a theologically conservative counterpart to the UMC that formed in 2022 after a denominational split, as well as other denominations.

Mark Webb, an Asbury alumnus and former UMC bishop now with the GMC, said the UMC has the right to make decisions that are best for it, and is not worried about Asbury.

“Asbury is going to continue to attract men and women who are called to various forms of Christian leadership and ministry,” Webb told CT. “I do not think this is going to, in the short term or the long term, hurt Asbury.”

Webb said that there are many GMC students at Asbury and that the Methodist DNA he and his colleagues are trying to build into the denomination is strong at Asbury.

Carolyn Moore, another Asbury grad and now a GMC bishop, said she respects the denomination’s decision and believes it provides theological clarity.

“At least United Methodists now know where United Methodists stand,” Moore said. “I think clarity is kind. So anytime something like this happens, what does that mean for Methodism? It means that Methodism is better able to define itself.”

Moore, too, thinks Asbury will be fine after the change.

Watson said the cut signals a broader divide between the conservative and progressive Methodist denominations than just differences on sexuality and marriage. Many issues are still unresolved within the Wesleyan movement, such as the authority of scripture and debates within theological anthropology—what it means to be human in God’s world.

“I don’t want the real theological issues to get lost in all of this conversation about human sexuality,” Watson said. “There’s a lot more at stake here than simply a disagreement about how we deal with gay and lesbian people in the church.”

New Tennessee law named after Charlie Kirk allows teachers to discuss Christianity's role in American history | WATE.com

#bibleprophecy, #charlie kirk, #christianity, #teachers, #history

Jun 23, 2026

A new Tennessee law set to take effect July 1 will give educators additional assurance they can teach about Christianity's influence on the founding of the United States without fear of violating state policy.

The Charlie Kirk American Heritage Act, sponsored by State Rep. Mark Cochran (R-Englewood), allows public school teachers and faculty at public colleges and universities to discuss the role Christianity played in shaping American history.

"I think it's almost impossible to teach American history without acknowledging Christianity's impact on it," Cochran said.

The law allows instruction on topics including the Mayflower Compact, references to divine authority in the Declaration of Independence, the influence of religious leaders on the nation's founding, and the history of the national motto, "In God We Trust."

Cochran said the legislation is not intended to require a new curriculum or mandate classroom instruction.

"The primary motivation for the legislation was really to set some reassurance for our teachers to make sure those folks who want to teach these concepts that they know there's nothing wrong with that," he said.

The measure is named after conservative activist Charlie Kirk. Cochran said lawmakers chose the name to honor what he described as Kirk's commitment to civil discourse and Christian conservative values.

While supporters said the law provides clarity for educators, some education leaders question how much impact students will actually see in the classroom.

"I don't think they are going to notice much," said JC Bowman, CEO and executive director of Professional Educators of Tennessee.

Bowman said the law appears to be more about providing guidance and protection for teachers than dramatically changing what students are taught.

One challenge, he said, is the lack of classroom materials available to educators interested in teaching the concepts outlined in the legislation.

“That’s my biggest complaint about this,” Bowman said. “I mean, we passed legislation, and we go down that path towards something, and there’s not enough material already done.”

Cochran said the Tennessee Department of Education is expected to provide guidance on implementation, but Bowman warned schools could interpret the law differently without clear direction.

“Academic freedom is really an important discussion to have, and I think the legislators are good at doing that, but we have to make sure we don’t censor people,” Bowman said.

The law takes effect July 1, ahead of the 2026-2027 school year.