



SIGNS OF THE TIMES

News Articles for Episode 234

[ISRAEL365 EXCLUSIVE: Red Heifers arrive in Israel \[WATCH\] \(israel365news.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #temple, #redheifers

Sep 16, 2022

The Temple Institute and Boneh Israel made a huge step towards reinstating the Temple service on Thursday when five red heifers landed at Ben Gurion International Airport.

The red heifer was the main component in the Biblically mandated process of ritual purification for impurity that results from proximity or contact with a dead body. Because the elements needed for this ceremony have been lacking since the destruction of the Second Temple, all Jews today are considered ritually impure, thereby preventing the return of the Temple service. The Temple Institute launched its Red Heifer program about a decade ago, led by Rabbi Azariah Ariel. But even in Temple times, an animal that fulfilled the Biblical requirements was exceedingly rare. Failing to produce a suitable candidate from ranchers in Israel, The Temple Institute began investigating alternative sources for a red heifer.

[Boneh Israel](#), an organization that connects Christian lovers of Israel to the Holy Land, stepped in to help. Led by Byron Stinson, a native Texan, Boneh Israel understood ranchers.

“I didn’t set out to do this, but right now, I am probably the best red heifer hunter in Texas,” Byron quipped. “The Bible says to bring a red cow to purify Israel, and I may not understand it, but I am just doing what the Bible said.”

“The prophecies came true, and the Jews are back in Israel,” Byron said. “Now they need to build a Temple. But it’s like buying a really nice car. If you don’t have the key, you aren’t going anywhere. The red heifer is the key to making the Temple work like it’s supposed to.”

Boneh Israel took out full-page ads in ranching magazines, explaining the situation to ranchers. They requested that any red calves be set aside.

“Several years ago, the farmer is a devout Christian who became intensely interested in the Biblical commandment,” Stinson explained to Israel365 News. “He began breeding cattle for this trait. So when my team and I set out to search ranches in Texas for a red heifer, his were already better suited.”

One of the major difficulties was that the government requires tagging calves right after birth. The ear tag creates a hole in the calf’s ear, a blemish that disqualifies the calf for

the Mitzvah. The farmer explained that because of COVID, the employee who normally puts in the tags did not come to the farm when these five calves were born.

A team of [rabbis from the Temple Institute flew out to inspect the calves last year](#). The requirements are incredibly demanding, requiring that there be no more than two non-red hairs on the entire calf. It must also never have been used for any labor or have been impregnated. The heifer must be two years and one day old to be suitable for the ceremony. Sometimes, a calf that is perfectly red when it is young develops black or white hairs as it grows older or may develop a blemish. Sometimes, the colored hairs fall out or disappear. Certifying the calf requires a complete and intensive inspection in which a rabbi knowledgeable in the laws goes over the entire calf with a magnifying glass.

Chanan Kupietzky, an Orthodox Jewish resident of Efrat, is the liaison between Boneh Israel and the rabbis of The Temple Institute.

“The Jews don’t need to be pure to build the Temple or to bring the public sacrifices,” Chanan explained. “On the other hand, purity will take it to the next level and will facilitate rebuilding the Temple and doing the service.”

“Education is essential to move forward, for the Jews and non-Jews,” Chanan said. “Boneh Israel is an Israeli organization whose main goal is education.”

The cows were between 5-8 months old. To be suitable for the red heifer ceremony, the cow must be two years and one day old so these heifers will be raised in Israel until they reach the proper age.

Chanan pointed out that last year was 5781 in the Hebrew calendar.

“In Hebrew numerology, this is תשפא. That is an acronym for תהיה שנה פרה אדומה (it will be the year of the red heifer). The cows we are looking at now were conceived last year,” Kupietzky said. “This year is תשפב, an acronym for תהיה שנה פרה בישראל (It will be a year for the heifer in Israel). In two weeks we will begin 5783, תשפג, the year in which the ceremony of the Red Heifer will be performed. This is an acronym for תהיה שנה פרה גאולה (It will be a year of the Red Heifer of redemption).”

The Talmud has a precedent for the red heifer being provided by a non-Jew. The Talmud (Kiddushin 31a) tells the story of the non-Jew named Dama who would not wake his father, Netina, to get to the key under his pillow to retrieve the stones to sell for the breastplate of the High Priest at a price of 600,000 dinars. Dama forfeited this great sum simply so as not to disturb his father’s sleep. He was rewarded the following year by finding in his flock and selling a rare red heifer to the rabbis for the same sum.

From the time of Moses, who personally prepared the first heifer, until the destruction of the Temple, only nine red heifers were prepared. Nonetheless, this was sufficient to maintain the ritual purity of the entire nation for almost 2,000 years. According to Jewish tradition, there will only be ten red heifers in human history with the tenth heifer ushering in the Messianic era. Rabbi Moshe ben Maimon (Maimonides), the

most renowned medieval Jewish scholar known by the acronym Rambam, wrote in his explanation of the *mitzvah* that “the tenth red heifer will be accomplished by the king, the Messiah; may he be revealed speedily, Amen, May it be God’s will.”

[New York mayor condemns ‘outrageous attacks’ on Jews as near-daily assaults continue | The Times of Israel](#)

#bibleprophecy, #jews, #anti-semitism, #newyorkcity

Sep 19, 2022

Mayor Eric Adams says antisemitism ‘won’t be tolerated’ after woman strikes Haredi man on sidewalk, as community members call for stiffer punishments against assailants

NEW YORK — New York City Mayor Eric Adams on Sunday condemned attacks on Jews as near-daily assaults on community members continued, drawing calls for more US government action.

“These outrageous attacks on our Jewish community won’t be tolerated, not in our city,” Adams said in response to a video showing a woman striking a Jewish man.

The video posted by Boro Park Shomrim, a neighborhood watch group, showed the woman pursuing an ultra-Orthodox man down a city sidewalk, screaming at him. She then swatted off his kippah and shtreimel, a traditional hat worn by Haredi men on Shabbat and holidays.

Boro Park Shomrim said the woman had been arrested.

“We will keep our streets safe,” [Adams said](#), thanking police for “their quick response to these acts of anti-Semitic hatred.”

New York State Governor Kathy Hochul said, “Acts of antisemitism are abhorrent and unacceptable.”

“Hate crimes will not be tolerated in New York, and we’ve strengthened our laws to further hold perpetrators accountable,” [Hochul said](#).

The [American Jewish Committee](#), [Anti-Defamation League](#), US House Representative [Jerry Nadler](#) and [local politicians](#) also condemned the attack.

Another day and another disturbing incident in [#BoroPark](#). This despicable incident happened this afternoon but thanks to our volunteers, she was caught and subsequently arrested

by [@NYPD66Pct](#). [@NYPDHateCrimes](#) [pic.twitter.com/kCEfFpqbrb](#)

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([@BPShomrim](#)) [September 18, 2022](#)*

A [nearly identical incident](#) also occurred in Boro Park earlier this week when a man riding a bicycle knocked the hat off of a Jewish man on a street.

Jews are consistently the group most targeted in hate crimes in New York City on an annual basis, in per capita and absolute terms, with the Anti-Defamation League reporting a record-high number of incidents last year.

The NYPD has confirmed 149 anti-Jewish hate crimes between the start of the year and June 28, representing an incident every 29 hours on average. The attacks range from violent assaults to racial slurs and property damage, and many more likely go unreported.

In August, the NYPD reported 24 anti-Jewish hate crimes, far more than against any other group and a 118-percent jump over the same month last year.

Many of the attacks target visibly identifiable Jews and Jewish targets in Brooklyn. Haredi communities in the area are also feeling under attack due to an [uproar over secular education](#) in the yeshiva religious school system, with some community leaders [warning](#) the issue could stoke further antisemitism.

Most of the attacks do not result in serious punishment, drawing the ire of Jewish advocates who have demanded changes to bail laws that could lead to harsher repercussions for assailants.

Late last month, police [announced two arrests](#) for suspected hate crimes against Jews, as Brooklyn community leaders praised police, called for bail reform and said the community was “terrified.” Police also said they would step up patrols around synagogues.

On Thursday, US House Representative Ritchie Torres [called on the FBI](#) and the US attorney general to investigate New York’s response to antisemitism, highlighting the low number of serious punishments for anti-Jewish hate crimes.

“The federal government can no longer stand by passively as antisemitic violence goes unchecked and unpunished in America’s largest city,” said Torres, a Democrat who represents New York’s 15th Congressional district in the Bronx and is a firm supporter of Jewish communities and Israel.

In a rare case, a US federal court [charged a pro-Palestinian activist](#) with a hate crime after he beat a Jewish man on the sidelines of a protest in Manhattan in April. An investigation found the defendant had attacked two other Jews in unprovoked assaults last year.

In some of the other incidents in the past week, a Jewish man was [punched in the face](#) repeatedly in an unprovoked attack in Queens; [Nazi graffiti](#) was sprayed on a fountain in Manhattan; and a Jewish woman was [shot with a BB gun](#) in Brooklyn.

[Disaster declared in Alaska as intense storm sweeps homes off foundations | AccuWeather](#)

#bibleprophecy, #typhoon, #alaska, #flooding

Sep 18, 2022

Former Typhoon Merbok became one of the most intense storms impact Alaska in recent history, causing significant flooding and conditions that made it difficult for emergency crews to reach evacuees.

Multiple towns across western Alaska were evacuated as former Typhoon Merbok, which transitioned from a tropical cyclone to an intense, non-tropical wind and rainstorm and became one of the strongest storms to hit the state in recent history.

A surge of water from the Bering Sea on Friday, Sept. 16, covered half of an old airport runway in Golovin, Alaska, located along the west-central coast of the state. The major flooding continued in the city into early Saturday morning, with [photos posted by the National Weather Service \(NWS\) office in Fairbanks](#) showing the community submerged in water.

The flooding and storm surge was so powerful that homes were swept away from their foundations, with [one house in Nome, Alaska, floating down the Snake River before slamming into a bridge](#), according to The Associated Press.

“We’ve had flooding in the past a few times, but it was never this severe,” Clarabelle Lewis, the facility manager for the tribal government and a resident of Golvin for 20 years, told the AP. “We’ve never had homes moved from their foundations.”

Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy [declared a disaster](#) for communities impacted by the storm. As of Saturday morning, SEOC reported no injuries as a result of the storm.

Reports from the city of Golovin indicated significant flooding and damage that potentially included old fuel tanks. Golovin Airport recorded both its peak sustained winds and gusts quickly as Friday became Saturday. Peak wind gusts of 63 miles per hour were reported just after midnight and peak sustained winds of 51 mph were recorded at 1 a.m. local time. Shortly after 6:05 a.m. local time, the weather station at Golovin Airport went offline amid the major weather impacts.

Kipnuk, Alaska, located on the southern part of the Alaskan west coast, reported winds of 45 mph with gusts as high as 80 mph, according to an NWS report. The second-highest wind gust of the day was recorded at the Tin City Airways Facilities Sector in Shishmaref, Alaska, when a 67 mph gust occurred at 8:49 a.m. Shishmaref is one of the westmost cities on the North American mainland and only about 35 miles east of Big Diomedes Island, Russia.

Ted Stevens Anchorage Airport had multiple cancellations to areas in the state impacted by the storm. Two flights from Anchorage to Ralph Wien Memorial Airport in Kotzebue were canceled on Saturday. A flight to Bethel and Nome was also canceled, [according to Flight Aware](#).

Airports on the western coast of Alaska experienced flooding as the hurricane-force storm brought several impacts to the state. [Cameras at Kotlik Airport](#) showed high water and flooding around the area early Saturday morning, including some buildings partially submerged in water. At Nome Airport, vehicles were flooded as the city suffered an eight-foot storm surge.

There have been several reports of damage across Alaska, including a report of at least three homes being moved from their foundations in Hooper Bay, [according to Tribal Chief Edgar Tall](#). Flood waters [forced about 110 people](#) to shelter at the Hooper Bay School.

"Western Alaska is facing one of the worst storms in recent history. My team and I are in consistent communication with local, state, and federal officials and stand ready to do what I can at the federal level to support all those who are being impacted," [Alaska senator Lisa Murkowski said in a Twitter post](#).

The entire community of Newtok was inundated with water and cut off from the airport. An estimated 100 feet of shoreline was lost in Newtok and at least a dozen homes flooded, [according to KTUU](#).

NOAA said the cyclone, which had dipped to a pressure of 28.05 inches of mercury (950 millibars) early Saturday morning, was the deepest low pressure in the Bering Sea in September since 2005.

'Out of control' STD situation prompts call for changes | AP News

#bibleprophecy, #std, #sin, #diseases

Sep 19, 2022

NEW YORK (AP) — Sharply rising cases of some sexually transmitted diseases — including a 26% rise in new syphilis infections reported last year — are prompting U.S. health officials to call for new prevention and treatment efforts.

“It is imperative that we ... work to rebuild, innovate, and expand (STD) prevention in the U.S.,” said Dr. Leandro Mena of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in a speech Monday at a medical conference on sexually transmitted diseases.

Infections rates for some STDs, including gonorrhea and syphilis, have been rising for years. Last year the rate of syphilis cases reached its highest since 1991 and the total number of cases hit its highest since 1948. HIV cases are also on the rise, up 16% last year.

And an international outbreak of monkeypox, which is being spread mainly between men who have sex with other men, has further highlighted the nation’s worsening problem with diseases spread mostly through sex.

David Harvey, executive director of the National Coalition of STD Directors, called the situation “out of control.”

Officials are working on new approaches to the problem, such as home-test kits for some STDs that will make it easier for people to learn they are infected and to take steps to prevent spreading it to others, Mena said.

Another expert said a core part of any effort must work to increase the use of condoms.

“It’s pretty simple. More sexually transmitted infections occur when people are having more unprotected sex,” said Dr. Mike Saag, an infectious disease expert at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Syphilis is a bacterial disease that surfaces as genital sores but can ultimately lead to severe symptoms and death if left untreated.

New syphilis infections plummeted in the U.S. starting in the 1940s when antibiotics became widely available. They fell to their lowest ever by 1998, when fewer than 7,000 new cases were reported nationwide. The CDC was so encouraged by the progress it launched a plan to eliminate syphilis in the U.S.

But by 2002 cases began rising again, largely among gay and bisexual men, and they kept going. In late 2013, CDC ended its elimination campaign in the face of limited funding and escalating cases, which that year surpassed 17,000.

By 2020 cases had reached nearly 41,700 and they spiked even further last year, to more than 52,000.

The rate of cases has been rising, too, hitting about 16 per 100,000 people last year. That's the highest in three decades.

Rates are highest in men who have sex with men, and among Black and Hispanic Americans and Native Americans. While the rate for women is lower than it is for men, officials noted that it's has been rising more dramatically — up about 50% last year.

That ties to another problem — the rise in congenital syphilis, in which infected moms pass the disease on to their babies, potentially leading to death of the child or health problems like deafness and blindness. Annual congenital syphilis cases numbered only about 300 a decade ago; they surged to nearly 2,700 last year. Of last year's tally, 211 were stillbirths or infant deaths, Mena said.

The increases in syphilis and other STDs may have several causes, experts say. Testing and prevention efforts have been hobbled by years of inadequate funding, and spread may have gotten worse — especially during the pandemic — as a result of delayed diagnosis and treatment. Drug and alcohol use may have contributed to risky sexual behavior. Condom use has been declining.

And there may have been a surge in sexual activity as people emerged from COVID-19 lockdowns. "People are feeling liberated," Saag said.

The arrival of monkeypox added a large additional burden. CDC recently sent a letter to state and local health departments saying that their HIV and STD resources could be used to fight the monkeypox outbreak. But some experts say the government needs to provide more funding for STD work, not divert it.

Harvey's group and some other public health organizations are pushing a proposal for more federal funding, including at least \$500 million for STD clinics.

Mena, who last year became director of the CDC's Division of STD Prevention, called for reducing stigma, broadening screening and treatment services, and supporting the development and accessibility of at-home testing. "I envision one day where getting tested (for STDs) can be as simple and as affordable as doing a home pregnancy test," he said.

[Earthquake in Mexico creates 'desert tsunami' 1,500 miles away in Death Valley National Park | Fox News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #earthquake, #tsunami, #deathvalley

Sep 22, 2022

7.6 magnitude earthquake in Mexico felt in Devils Hole cave system at Death Valley National Park in Arizona

A [7.6 magnitude earthquake](#) that rattled Mexico on Monday sent shockwaves that triggered a "desert tsunami" in a cave system 1,500 miles away in Death Valley National Park in Nevada, officials said.

The quake rocked [Mexico's central Pacific coast](#), killing at least one person. About 22 minutes after the quake struck, the tremors caused 4-foot-high waves to slosh in Devils Hole, the National Park Service (NPS) said.

Devils Hole is a partially water-filled limestone cave in Nye County, Nevada, and is hundreds of feet deep, according to the NPS.

It is home to the endangered Devils Hole pupfish, which depend on algae that grow on a shallow, sunlit shelf as a food source.

Officials described the "surprising quirk of geology" as a "desert tsunami," but said it is properly [known as a "seiche."](#) A seiche is a standing wave in an enclosed body of water.

The waves stirred the rocks and sediment on the shallow shelf and removed most of the algae growth, limiting the amount of food available to the pupfish in the short term, the NPS said.

"The pupfish have survived several of these events in recent years," said Kevin Wilson, National Park Service aquatic ecologist. "We didn't find any dead fish after the waves stopped."

Officials said the [Devils Hole pupfish](#) population has been steadily growing, with 175 fish living in Devils Hole in March, compared to just 35 nine years ago.

On Thursday morning, a second earthquake measuring at a magnitude 6.8 struck western Mexico, killing at least two people. It was not immediately clear whether Devils Hole experienced the same phenomenon.

[48% of Evangelical leaders report being blacklisted over beliefs | Church & Ministries News \(christianpost.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #beliefs, #church, #periloustimes

Sep 18, 2022

Nearly half of Evangelical leaders said in a new survey that they have been disinvited, blacklisted or excluded because of their point of view or “guilt by association,” according to the National Association of Evangelicals.

The NAE's July/August [Evangelical Leaders Survey](#) revealed that 48% of Evangelical leaders said they have been “canceled” by others “as a way of expressing their disapproval for the leader or the leader’s point of view.”

The findings are part of a monthly poll of the NAE’s Board of Directors, which includes the CEOs of denominations and representatives of diverse Evangelical organizations, such as missions, universities, publishers and churches.

“Cancel culture is the practice of excluding any person, organization or work as a way of expressing disapproval,” NAE President Walter Kim explained.

“While it is important to be clear about unacceptable behavior and unorthodox positions, this phenomenon makes it difficult to have meaningful, vulnerable and open dialogue about the real challenges that we face,” he said.

Some leaders said the Evangelical leadership should expect to be canceled because it has become commonplace.

However, “the reality of cancel culture can make leaders wary of communicating their positions on complex issues for fear of retribution,” the association fears.

Last month, Pastor Ed Young of Fellowship Church in Grapevine, Texas, said Facebook removed a paid ad for his sermon “Woke or Awake.”

“Well, I got canceled this week,” Young said, according to [Church Leaders](#). “Our friends at Facebook just canceled me. Our incredible media team put together these ads, and we showed these ads. And, for some reason, Mark Zuckerberg and his friends didn't dig them.”

Many Evangelical leaders think being open and willing for respectful conversations could be the way to engage.

“I have made it a policy to welcome comments and open the door to discussion. People have disagreed with statements that I have made and contacted me to share their

concerns,” Ron Hamilton, conference minister at Conservative Congregational Christian Conference, was quoted as saying.

Those who said they had not been canceled also noted that they might have been unknowingly rejected or not invited due to their beliefs or engagement.

“Not to my knowledge! I have no idea whether my views were the reason I was not invited to speak in the first place,” Rich Nathan, founding pastor of Vineyard Columbus, was quoted as saying.

Some leaders said “guilt by association” was also a basis for cancellation.

“I served as the primary speaker for an annual event (for about nine years) at a major Christian university. Although my ministry remained consistent — and my views had not changed at all — my relationship with people outside their doctrinal distinctives caused me to be disinvited,” Daniel Henderson, president of Strategic Renewal, was quoted as saying.

Kim said while individuals and organizations need to be held accountable for their actions, people should not be punished for holding beliefs that may be different. “We need to encourage conversations across differences. Let us open our doors and ask those with differences to pull up a seat at the table. After all, that was the way of Jesus,” he concluded.

[Southern Baptist Committee Disfellowships Church for Affirming Homosexuality - Michael Foust \(christianheadlines.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #apostasy, #church, #lgbtq

Sep 21, 2022

The Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee voted Tuesday to disfellowship two churches from the convention, including one for its stance on homosexuality.

The Executive Committee approved recommendations from the Credentials Committee to disfellowship College Park Baptist Church in Greensboro, N.C., for "open affirmation, approval and endorsement of homosexual behavior," and Amazing Grace Community Church in Franklinville, N.J., for its "lack of cooperation demonstrated ... to resolve concerns regarding alleged discriminatory behavior." [Baptist Press](#), the news service of the Southern Baptist Convention, was the first to report on the vote.

"The Credentials Committee determined that these churches were outside the bounds of fellowship with Southern Baptists," Executive Committee chairman Jared Wellman told Baptist Press. "The Executive Committee discussed that in executive session and approved [those decisions]."

College Park Baptist says on its [website](#) it is a "welcoming, LGBTQIA affirming Baptist Church."

"Our LGBTQ-friendly church has many LGBTQ members, in addition to gay/lesbian ministers, deacons and staff members," the website says. "... We perform same-sex weddings and welcome many that have been beaten up by the Bible at other churches."

The SBC's statement of belief, the Baptist Faith & Message 2000, says Christians should oppose "all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography."

SBC messengers in 2012 passed a [resolution](#) stating, "We express our love to those who struggle with same-sex attraction and who are engaged in the homosexual lifestyle. ... [W]e stand against any form of gay-bashing, whether disrespectful attitudes, hateful rhetoric, or hate-incited actions toward persons who engage in acts of homosexuality. ... [W]e encourage our fellow Southern Baptists to consider how they and their churches might engage in compassionate, redemptive ministry to those who struggle with homosexuality. ... [W]e proclaim that Christ offers forgiveness of sin for those who turn from their sins and believe on Christ for the forgiveness of sin."

[Zambian Christians Rejoice as Bibles Are Translated into Their Native Tongues for the First Time - Milton Quintanilla \(christianheadlines.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #bible, #translation, #zambia

Sep 7, 2022

Christians in Zambia, Africa, are celebrating the latest milestone in Bible translation, the creation of Bibles written in their native tongues.

According to [CBN News](#), the effort is led by [Wycliffe Associates](#), an organization that offers Bible translations in countless languages. Currently, over 5,000 people are working in Zambia to translate the Bible into 20 native languages.

Bishop Henry Mumba, a pastor and church planter, is assisting church-owned translation work in Munsa. He recalled how he heard his first Bible verse, [John 3:16](#), when he was 19 years old.

"My pastor was a missionary from another country," Mumba told CBN News in an interview. "And he came into this town and when they preached the Gospel to me, the first verse that I knew was [John 3:16](#), 'For God so love the world, that He gave His only son that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.'"

Believers in Mansa, Zambia, were reportedly dancing after they got to read and listen to the reading of the New Testament in Aushi, their native language, for the first time.

"It's like God is speaking our language," Mumba said.

The bishop also shared that the Bible is the first written literature in the Aushi language.

"We've never had anything before," he said.

In addition to the Aushi translation, the New Testament was translated into Nynja and Laya.

"Our country has 73 languages. And only seven were considered official languages. Those were the only ones who had scripture translated," pastor Buster Paul Tembo Tembo of Livingston explained.

Tembo, who leads church-owned translation work in Livingston, contended that Christians having access to the Scriptures in their own language makes a "great spiritual impact in their lives."

"When you bring it out in your own language, when you read it out in your own language, even the interpretation of it to the people, the understanding you have or bring to the people is so clear," he said.

Simoun Ung, the President and CEO of Wycliffe Associates, explained that the term "church-owned Bible translation" means that the local church owns the translation process and the production of the Scriptures.

According to Ung, one major challenge is determining how to accelerate the translation process without giving up the quality of the translation.

"When you see the field, you see the need for scriptures. People are dying every day without coming to know the Lord. And so the urgency for us is really there, in terms of being able to press forward," she said.