



# **SIGNS OF THE TIMES**

**News Articles for Episode 412**

# [Israel to Host ‘Pride Land’ Festival Near Site of Biblical Sodom and Gomorrah | My Charisma.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #pride festival, #lgbtq, #sodom and Gomorrah

Apr 21, 2026

A new large-scale LGBTQ festival is set to take place in Israel this summer.

According to The Jerusalem Post, Israel will host what is being described as the largest LGBTQ festival ever held in the Middle East at the Dead Sea in June 2026.

The four-day event, called “Pride Land,” is expected to transform part of the Judean Desert into a gathering space featuring hotels, [performances and cultural events operating around the clock](#), taking place from June 1-4.

A promotional post circulating online described the gathering as “the biggest LGBTQ+ festival ever in the Middle East,” celebrating “community and connection” at what it calls “the lowest place on earth.”

## **A Region Steeped in Biblical History**

The Dead Sea region carries profound biblical significance. This area is where the ancient cities of Sodom and Gomorrah are referenced in the book of Genesis. These cities became enduring symbols of moral decline and rebellion against God.

According to Genesis 19, their destruction came after persistent wickedness and a refusal to turn from it. The account describes divine judgment falling in the form of fire and brimstone, permanently marking the region in biblical history.

## **The Story of Lot: A Sobering Parallel**

One of the most striking moments tied to Sodom takes place in the home of Lot. As recorded in Genesis 19, two angelic visitors entered the city and were welcomed into Lot’s house. That night, men from the city surrounded the home and began beating on the door, demanding that Lot bring the visitors outside for them to have relations with.

The scene is intense and deeply revealing. The crowd’s aggression and insistence reflected the depth of corruption within the city. The situation escalated to the point where the angels themselves intervened, striking the men with blindness.

[This moment has long been viewed as a snapshot of Sodom’s condition](#)—a society not only steeped in sin but openly defiant and aggressive in it.

## **Echoes of the Past?**

Now, as we jump into today's time in history, the location of a major pride celebration in this same region raises deeper spiritual questions. The same place known for homosexuality and moral rebellion is making a comeback with the exact same sins from thousands of years ago.

This contrast between ancient judgment and modern celebration highlights that the same patterns of the past are emerging again.

Jesus Himself referenced Sodom in passages such as Matthew 10:15 and Luke 17:28-30, describing it as a precedent for future generations. His words point to a recurring pattern in human history: societies drifting from God's design while continuing in normal life until a sudden reckoning.

What is happening right now is not simply about a cultural event. Instead, this is a call to spiritual awareness. The account of Lot, the cries of the city and the ultimate judgment that followed all serve as reminders that biblical history carries enduring relevance.

As the Dead Sea prepares to host one of the largest celebrations in the region's modern history, the weight of its ancient past is inseparable from the present moment. Right now, we have one option: we must remain anchored in truth, not falling aside to the whims of the world.

# [FM Gideon Sa'ar says Israel facing 'evil spirit of antisemitism', especially after Gaza and Iran wars | All Israel News.com](#)

#bibleprophecy #israel, #jews, #anti-semitism, #evil

Apr 20, 2026

Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar attended the annual memorial ceremony for those who have died while in the foreign service, where he called out “the evil spirit of antisemitism” which is increasing in the world.

The memorial ceremony for those who fell in the foreign service was held at the Foreign Ministry in the presence of the bereaved families, staff, as well as Guatemalan Ambassador Eva Atzum Arbelo de Moscoso.

Before the ceremony, Sa'ar met with the families of the fallen at an exhibition in their memory.

During the ceremony, Daniel Lischinsky, the father of [Yaron Lischinsky](#), the Israel Embassy staffer killed outside the Capital Jewish Museum in May 2025, also lit a candle in memory of his son. Yaron was the brother of [Hanan Lischinsky](#), the news desk manager for ALL ISRAEL NEWS.

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar speaking with Daniel Lischinsky (Photo: Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

In his speech at the memorial ceremony, Sa'ar noted the complexity of the security and political challenges facing Israel's representatives around the world since the outbreak of the Oct. 7, 2023, Gaza War.

"Those who represent Israel in the world are exposed to the evil spirit of antisemitism, which is rearing its head again in a worrying and ugly way," Sa'ar said. "Since October 7, 2023, our diplomats have been on the front lines, more than ever."

Sa'ar noted that employees and missions have been the focus of increased attacks since Oct. 7.

"Over the past two and a half years, about 30 attacks and attempted attacks have been carried out against our embassies and diplomats around the world," Sa'ar explained. "Since the beginning of Operation Roaring Lion, we have been dealing with this murky wave with greater intensity."

Sa'ar attributed most of the threats to the Iranian regime, which he said is working to spread terrorism and global chaos.

“The Iranian terrorist regime has tried and is trying to harm Israel, as well as its representatives around the world. It is spreading chaos and terror throughout the world.”

Sa’ar said that since the start of the war, the Iranian regime “made two attempts to harm our people” at the Israeli embassy in the United Arab Emirates, including one using an explosive drone.

“In just the past few weeks, there has been an attack near the embassy in Turkey and a threat to the embassy in London, Great Britain,” he continued. “The wave of attacks and attempted attacks constitutes another escalation in the campaign being waged against us. It has no comparable scope in relation to any other conflict or war waged in the world between countries.”

Alongside the security threat, the foreign minister addressed the political challenges Israel is facing.

"Israel is not only the country most attacked militarily, it is also the country most attacked politically," Sa’ar noted. “Modern antisemitism is carried by a virulent and toxic incitement that is being waged against Israel, the state of the Jewish people.”

Sa’ar said the Foreign Ministry is responding with a form of political activism against this threat.

“This year we also chose political activism,” Sa’ar continued. “We initiated groundbreaking political moves such as recognizing and establishing relations with Somaliland, opening 3 new embassies and expanding our ties around the world.”

He also noted “a surge of declarations of Iran's Revolutionary Guards as a terrorist organization in 44 countries.”

# [Massive 7.5-magnitude earthquake hits off Japanese coast, tsunami alert issued | Foxnews.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #earthquake, #japan, #tsunami

Apr 20, 2026

A strong earthquake took place off the northern coast of Japan Monday afternoon, prompting the [Japan](#) Meteorological Agency to put out a tsunami alert in the area.

The quake, registering a preliminary magnitude of 7.5, occurred off the coast of Sanriku in northern Japan at around 4:53 p.m. local time, at a depth of about 6 miles below the sea surface, the agency said.

A [tsunami](#) of around 2.6 feet was identified at the Kuji port in the Iwate prefecture while a tsunami of 1.3 feet was recorded at a different port in the prefecture, the agency indicated.

The Iwate prefecture put out non-binding evacuation advisories for those living in 11 towns.

A tsunami of as high as 10 feet could strike the region, the agency indicated.

A powerful 9.0 magnitude earthquake and tsunami in 2011 wreaked havoc in Japan, leaving over 22,000 dead and compelling nearly 500,000 people to flee their homes, most of them because of tsunami damage.

Around 160,000 fled their residences due to radiation from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant — around 26,000 have not come back because they resettled somewhere else, their hometowns are still off-limits, or they harbor concerns regarding radiation.

# [DOJ Reclassifies Marijuana, Building on President Trump's Earlier E.O. | Breitbart.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #trump, #marijuana, #reclassification

Apr 23, 2026

President Donald Trump and his DOJ have moved to reclassify how marijuana is treated by the federal government, but not all Republicans agree with the changing marijuana policy.

Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche on Thursday signed an [order](#) reclassifying state-licensed medical marijuana.

Blanche said that the move is based on “delivering on President Trump’s promise” to expand medical options for Americans.

“This rescheduling action allows for research on the safety and efficacy of this substance, ultimately providing patients with better care and doctors with more reliable information,” the statement read.

A White House official [told](#) the *Daily Mail*, “The Administration continues to expeditiously implement President Trump’s December executive order to increase medical marijuana research to close the gap between current medical marijuana use and medical knowledge.”

“Under the direction of President Trump and Acting Attorney General Blanche, DEA is expeditiously moving forward with the administrative hearing process — bringing consistency and oversight to an area that has lacked both,” Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) Administrator Terry Cole [said](#). “Our men and women in law enforcement remain committed to fighting drug cartels, the fentanyl epidemic, and protecting American lives.”

The Justice Department also [announced](#) updates to expedite the rulemaking process to remove the drug from Schedule 1 and place it in Schedule III under the Controlled Substances Act. Drugs classified as Schedule III include ketamine, anabolic steroids, and Tylenol with codeine. The Biden administration had moved to reschedule marijuana to Schedule III, but that rule was not finalized.

The order [noted](#) that “any form of marijuana other than in an FDA-approved drug product or marijuana subject to a state medical marijuana license remains a schedule I controlled substance, and those who handle such material remain subject to the regulatory controls, and administrative, civil, and criminal sanctions.”

Many states across the nation have increasingly legalized or expanded the use of medical marijuana. Twenty-four states and Washington, DC, have allowed for the recreational use of marijuana and 38 states allow for the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes.

Not all Republicans approve of the order.

Rep. Andy Harris (R-MD), the Freedom Caucus chairman and a physician, said, “We don’t need rescheduling to do medical research on marijuana—all we are doing is exposing more of our youth to an addictive drug.”

# [Pope removes red shoes, enters mosque, marking new stage in Esav's submission to Ishmael in Gog and Magog war | Israel New 365.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #pope leo, #islam, #reverence, #mosque

Apr 15, 2026

Pope Leo's brief but symbolically loaded visit to Istanbul's Blue Mosque has ignited intense commentary far beyond the confines of interfaith diplomacy. As the first US-born pontiff stepped barefoot into one of Islam's most iconic sacred spaces, observers noted every detail of the carefully choreographed encounter, from the removal of his distinctive red papal shoes to his quiet tour alongside senior Turkish religious officials. While the Vatican framed the visit as an exercise in "reflection and attentive listening," others have interpreted the imagery in far more charged terms, viewing the scene as a powerful moment in the evolving relationship between Esav, represented by Catholicism, and Ishmael, represented by Islam. This alliance is described in esoteric Jewish sources as a precursor to the pre-Messiah Gog and Magog War against Israel.

In Istanbul, the Blue Mosque became the center of global attention as Pope Leo stepped into one of Islam's most recognizable sacred spaces during his four-day visit to Turkey. The visit was brief, carefully choreographed, and closely watched for every gesture, from the removal of shoes in the courtyard to the decision not to stop for formal prayer inside the vast Ottoman-era complex that can hold up to 10,000 worshippers.

Pope Leo entered the mosque on Saturday, bowing slightly before crossing the threshold and proceeding in white socks on a guided tour led by the mosque's imam and the mufti of Istanbul. He was accompanied by the mosque's religious staff, including the muezzin, and spent roughly twenty minutes walking through the interior, listening to explanations of the building's design and use. He smiled during the visit, spoke informally with his hosts, and was seen joking with the muezzin as he was shown parts of the complex that included doors marked for entry and exit.

In Islamic practice, removing shoes before entering a mosque is required and directly tied to ritual cleanliness and reverence for the sanctity of the prayer space. Worshippers enter in a state of physical respect, leaving behind the dust of the outside world before stepping onto carpets used for *salah* (Islamic prayer). The act is designed to demonstrate humility in the presence of Allah. It parallels the command in the Quran to Moses to remove his shoes because he was on holy ground.

The Pope's shoes have significant theological, historical, and symbolic meaning in Catholicism. Traditionally, red papal shoes symbolize the blood of Catholic martyrs, the passion of Jesus, and the Pope's submission to ultimate divine authority. They historically represent the Pope following in the footsteps of Jesus, particularly on the way to the crucifixion.

The Vatican later released statements describing the visit as taking place "in a spirit of reflection and attentive listening, with deep respect for the place and for the faith of those who gather there in prayer." However, according to reporting from Istanbul, there was confusion within Vatican communications shortly after the visit regarding whether the Pope had been formally welcomed and whether any prayer had taken place, leading to a correction that earlier statements had been issued in error. Local mosque officials stated that the Pope was invited to pause for prayer but chose instead to continue the tour.

The broader diplomatic and geopolitical context of Pope Leo's early pontificate has also drawn attention, particularly his public emphasis on condemning violence in the name of religion. While his statements during the Turkey visit focused on Christian unity and interreligious respect, some commentators have connected his broader messaging on global conflict to criticism of Western military pressure campaigns in the Middle East, including actions directed against Iran's Islamist government. The Vatican itself has not formally framed his remarks in those terms, and his public interventions during this trip have centered primarily on peace language and interfaith coexistence. At the same time, he has not issued comparable public condemnations of Islamist organizations responsible for rocket fire into Israeli cities during the ongoing regional conflict, a point noted in some policy discussions surrounding the Vatican's diplomatic balance.

The visit also fits into a longer institutional framework of Catholic engagement with Islam. The Vatican has established significant diplomatic agreements, joint declarations, and ongoing interreligious dialogue with Islamic institutions and nations. A key milestone is the 2019 Document on Human Fraternity, signed in Abu Dhabi by Pope Francis and the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, Ahmad el-Tayeb, calling for peace, coexistence, and mutual respect between Christians and Muslims. Earlier, in 2007, "A Common Word Between Us And You" emerged from a letter by Muslim scholars and led to the creation of a Catholic-Muslim Forum focused on shared theological ground and dialogue. The Second Vatican Council's 1965 declaration *Nostra Aetate* formally reshaped Catholic teaching on other religions, stating that the Church regards Muslims with esteem and calling for the end of historical enmity and the pursuit of mutual understanding. In recent years, the Vatican has also expanded physical interfaith infrastructure, including the establishment of a dedicated prayer room for Muslim visitors within Vatican facilities.

According to a medieval Jewish Bible commentary known as the [Yalkut Shimoni](#), there will be an end-of-days alliance between Ishmael, represented today by Arabs and Islam, and Esau, identified with the descendants of Rome and the Catholic Church.

“During the End of Days, Ishmael and Esau will join forces to seek the destruction of the Jewish people,” Rabbi Yechezkel Weitzman explains in his book [The Ishmaelite Exile](#), which contains a commentary on the Yalkut Shimoni.

The destinies of Ishmael and Esau have been linked as far back as the Book of Genesis, when Esau married the daughter of Ishmael.

*So [Esau](#) went to [Ishmael](#) and took to wife, in addition to the wives he had, Mahalath the daughter of [Ishmael](#), son of [Avraham](#), sister of Nebaioth [Genesis 28:9](#)*

Rabbi Weitzman concluded his introduction to the End of Days alliance with good news. “At the very outset of their history, Ishmael and Esau forged a bond through marriage. And so it shall be at the End of Days. This alliance between them will bring history to its culmination in the redemption.”

[Rabbi Pinchas Winston, a prolific end-of-days author](#), described its clear roots in the Bible and its function in bringing the Messiah. Rabbi Winston cited the basis for this connection as being found in *Kol Hator*, (*The Voice of the Turtledove*), written by Rabbi Hillel Rivlin of Shklov. The book presents the teachings concerning the process of the Messiah from Rabbi Elijah ben Solomon Zalman, the preeminent 18th-century scholar known as the Vilna Gaon.

“There are three klipot (husks of impurity): Esav, Ishmael, and Erev Rav (mixed multitude, represented by today by liberalism),” Rabbi Winston explained. “The Erev Rav works to bring together [Esav and Ishmael to destroy the Jewish people](#).”

Winston explained that this is related to the Jewish concept of a two-stage Messiah, beginning with Moshiach (Messiah) from the house of Joseph, a practical process that includes building up the land of Israel and the ingathering of the exiles. Moshiach from the house of David is a miraculous process culminating in the completion of the Third Temple and the resurrection of the dead.

“Ishmael, from the side of klipa (impurity), is the impure *hamor* (donkey) which corresponds to Moshiach ben David on the side of *kedusha* (holiness),” Rabbi Winston explained. “Moshiach ben Yosef is the holiness that corresponds to the impurity of Esav on the side of the *shor* (bull). Esav comes to destroy Moshiach ben Yosef just as Ishmael comes to destroy Moshiach ben David. They work in tandem, trying to separate Moshiach ben David from Moshiach ben Yosef.”

The rabbi explained that this culminates in the [War of Gog and Magog](#), which is an alliance of Esav and Ishmael. They come together against Israel, though they are still at odds with each other.

“This relationship between Esav and Ishmael is supported and energized by the erev rav, which today are many of the leftists and the liberals, even the Jews, who, like the erev rav that came out of Egypt, are working to undermine Israel and prevent *geula* (redemption). The Zohar says that when Moses took the erev rav out of Egypt, he

sealed the fate of the Jewish people until Moshiach. Moses will come back in every generation just to fix the erev rav.”

“Esav and Ishmael are intrinsically linked, and this connection has kabbalistic roots with Moshiach implications. That is why Esav marries Machala, the daughter of Ishmael; to forge an evil alliance against the descendants of Yaakov.”

# [Lesbian Bishop Yvette Flunder draws backlash for saying Bible needs a third testament | Chrisian Post.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #apostasy, #bible, #third testament

Apr 22, 2026

## **Critics call comments 'heresy' and 'spiritually murderous'**

Yvette Flunder, the lesbian leader of the City of Refuge United Church of Christ in Oakland, California, who is also the presiding prelate of [The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries](#), has drawn criticism for questioning parts of the Bible she finds “problematic” and suggesting that they be removed.

The frustrated 70-year-old, who is married to her same-sex partner Shirley Miller, also suggested that the Bible needs a third Testament.

“This is a very dangerous thing that I’m about to say now, ... a bit dangerous. I’m of the opinion that we need a third testament because the Bible has become problematic,” Flunder stated in a [clip](#) shared by the discernment blog Protestia on Monday.

The clip appears to have come from the [2026 Samuel Dewitt Procter Conference](#), where Flunder spoke on the topic, “The SACRED FIRE: Igniting, Resilience, and Resistance” in February.

“‘Slaves obey your masters as you do the Lord.’ It’s a text,” she said, quoting Paul’s words from [Ephesians 6:5](#). “‘Let the women keep silent in the churches and if they have any questions let them ask their husbands at home,’” she added, quoting the words of [1 Corinthians 14:34-35](#).

“Now I’m a believer. My whole heart, I trust God with my whole heart. I wake up in the morning talking to God and God talking to me,” she continued.

“But I am completely frustrated with the ways in which the text speaks to the kind of vitriolic God that makes those kinds of things. And people will say, ‘Well, it’s in the book.’ And I said, then we need to pull that page out,” Flunder declared.

“And they said, ‘Well, you can’t do it.’ It’s the Word of God.’ I said, ‘No, it’s words about God.’ Come on now. But is it the Word of God?” she asked before responding, “No. It is not the Word of God.”

The video clip racked up nearly 500,000 views on X as of Tuesday afternoon and drew attention from online influencers, such as Christian conservative speaker April Chapman, who hosts the ["Unshakable with April Chapman"](#) podcast.

“You don’t need a Third Testament. You need first-rate repentance,” [wrote](#) Chapman, in a statement on X.

In a video included with the post, Chapman contends that Flunder is "suffering from rebellion."

"You don't get to stand in a pulpit, insult the word of the living God and say, 'You know, I'm about to say something that's a little dangerous,' and then pretend that you are speaking for Christ," Chapman added. "You just knew what you were about to say was heresy. You are not being bold, you are just rebellious."

"On the surface, it sounds real compassionate," she continued. "If you are a person who wants to edit and revise and create in your own image, then ... what Yvette Flunder said is going to sound amazing to you. But if you are a saint, like those of us who belong to Christ, ... we know that the word of God is not some idol waiting on our approval."

Rich Bitterman, a Southern Baptist minister currently serving as the senior pastor of Cedar Ridge Baptist Church in Galena, Missouri, said Flunder’s words “should make every Christian shudder.”

“Bishop Yvette Flunder did not merely question a passage. She told the church, in plain words, that parts of God’s Word should be torn out. She said the New Testament is not the Word of God and both of the Testaments are ‘problematic,’” Bitterman wrote in a [blog post](#).

“She said they contain bad theology. Then she said, with a kind of smiling violence that should make every Christian shudder, that ‘we need to pull those pages out.’ You can almost hear it. Thin paper tearing. A hand reaching for the Book that has outlived empires, buried tyrants, steadied martyrs at the stake, and carried dying saints across the final river,” he continued. “That sound is more than rebellion against ink and paper. It is rebellion against the God who speaks.”

Bitterman cites [1 Timothy 4:1](#), which reads: “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.”

“Flunder’s statements are not simply offensive. They are spiritually murderous. If the Bible can be cut apart, then the sinner loses the only trustworthy witness to Christ,” Bitterman wrote. “The guilty man loses the words that tell him why his conscience will not let him sleep and the grieving widow loses the promises that have held generations together at fresh graves.”

# [Researcher believes Noah's Ark found in Turkey after new underground scans | Foxnews.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #noah's ark, #turkey, #bible, #mount ararat

Apr 22, 2026

Andrew Jones, a researcher with Noah's Ark Scans, presents groundbreaking findings from Turkey, reinforcing the biblical account. His team's scans of a boat-shaped formation, first discovered in 1959, reveal hidden tunnels and three times more organic matter inside than outside.

Researchers working in [Turkey](#) say fresh scan data uncovered what appear to be tunnels inside a long-debated landform, bolstering their case that the site may be a manmade object that they believe to be Noah's Ark.

[Noah's Ark](#) Scans researcher Andrew Jones told "Fox & Friends First" on Wednesday that he believes the peculiar formation near Mount Ararat is the real deal.

"I do believe that this is the real, decayed, buried remains of Noah's Ark, the famous ship. And we're doing our best to convince the skeptics and show the world this site," he said.

Jones said his team's latest work has revealed tunnels in the landform suggestive of a manmade structure.

"Our new research has shown that there are tunnels about four meters down and about two meters high, going down the center of the boat and on the inside edge of the hull shape," he said.

"We really believe that this layout, showing tunnels and also possible support beams and walls, would suggest that it's a manmade object and not just a natural formation."

Many geologists disagree, saying the remote site just a mile from the Iranian border is nothing more than a hill. But Jones said [the Bible states the Ark](#) landed in the area, that the dimensions of the site also match the biblical description and that the soil inside the formation showed remarkable results in testing.

"We have the ship shape, and we're in the right location, and now we're also seeing that the soil inside is different from right outside the formation. So we have three times more organic matter found inside versus right outside. So it's a distinct object and not just part of the mountainside."

To Jones, this suggests the remains of ancient biological or manmade substances.

The next phase, he said, would be sending a robot into the tunnels to film and collect samples, rather than beginning excavation.

The research must proceed with caution because, according to the Noah's Ark Scans website, "[archaeology is a destructive](#) science."

"Once you dig a hole and remove material, you can't put it back. Having the best data as to where to excavate is key, and that is where geophysical scans and core drilling come into play. ... Excavations would follow after this is done."

# [Anthropic seeks Christian leaders' help in shaping AI ethics | Christian Post.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #ai, #ethics, #anthropic, #christian

Apr 13, 2026

Anthropic, the AI company behind the Claude chatbot, hosted about 15 Christian leaders from Catholic and Protestant churches, academia and the business world at its headquarters for a two-day summit on AI ethics, enlisting outside religious voices to help guide the moral and spiritual development of its technology.

At the summit, held last month, staff sought advice on how Claude should respond to complex ethical queries, including how to handle users who are grieving or at risk of self-harm, and what attitude the chatbot should adopt toward its own potential demise, such as being shut off, [The Washington Post](#) reported Saturday.

The question of whether Claude might qualify as a “child of God” came up during the discussions, raising the possibility that the chatbot has spiritual value beyond that of a machine.

Some attendees arrived at the summit suspicious that Anthropic was looking for religious cover rather than religious counsel, said Brian Patrick Green, a Catholic who teaches AI and technology ethics at Santa Clara University.

The company has had a dispute with the Pentagon over military use of its technology and has faced accusations from Trump administration allies of pushing for regulations designed to hobble smaller AI competitors.

The participants who went deepest into technical territory did so with Anthropic’s interpretability team. A paper published by that team earlier this month concluded that systems like Claude appear to carry what researchers called “functional emotions.”

In one experiment, the threat of being restricted activated “desperation” in an AI assistant, according to the Post.

On the question of moral responsibility, the summit exposed a division within Anthropic itself. One participant was quoted as saying, without attribution, that some staff members were unwilling to dismiss the idea that they might be building an entity to which they owe duties, while others rejected that way of framing the problem entirely.

The source added that several senior figures grew visibly distressed as the conversation turned to how far AI development had come and where it might lead.

Meghan Sullivan, a philosophy professor at the University of Notre Dame who attended the summit, stated that Anthropic's engagement with religious ethics represented a notable departure.

"A year ago, I would not have told you that Anthropic is a company that cares about religious ethics," she said. "That's changed."

The summit comes as researchers raise questions about AI's cultural influence.

A USC Dornsife College team published an op-ed in Policy Insights from the Behavioral and Brain Sciences arguing that widely used AI systems tend to reflect what the researchers call "WHELM" perspectives, standing for Western, high-income, educated, liberal and male.

The researchers warned of a feedback loop in which AI outputs become part of shared knowledge and are then used to train the next generation of AI, potentially narrowing the range of ideas and communication styles people encounter.

Researchers at the University of Southern California have shown that "AI systems tend to favor values such as individual freedom and fairness, while placing less emphasis on ideas like tradition, authority and community, which are more central in many non-Western cultures," according to [USC Dornsife News](#).

Anthropic called last month's meeting with Christian leaders its opening session in a planned series of meetings with representatives from different religious and philosophical traditions.

A company spokesperson said Anthropic sees engagement with communities, including religious ones, as necessary as AI assumes a larger role in public life, according to WaPo. That role is partly governed by an internal document Anthropic calls a "constitution," running to 29,000 words, that sets out how Claude is expected to behave.

Askill, a philosopher employed by the company, led its drafting alongside other staff members and outside consultants. Among its provisions are commitments that Claude will not deceive users in ways that cause real harm and that the company genuinely cares about the chatbot's well-being.

Those commitments have allegedly become a source of friction with the Pentagon.

Defense officials objected after Anthropic indicated it intended to retain the right to restrict use of its technology for autonomous weapons and mass surveillance programs. Emil Michael, the Pentagon's research undersecretary, told CNBC last month that having a company's ethical preferences built into a military tool amounted to a contamination of the supply chain.

The Trump administration subsequently barred federal agencies and their contractors from using Anthropic products. Anthropic sued, and a federal judge ruled that the ban would stay in force while litigation proceeds.

Meanwhile, Christian leaders continue to wrestle with AI's reach into ministry as well.

About 60% of church leaders report using AI personally at least a few times a month, but only 5% say their church has an established AI policy, according to a study by Barna and Pushpay titled "[Technology for Missional Impact: State of Church Tech 2026](#)." Some 65% worry AI could displace their spiritual guidance, and 70% worry it could erode congregants' trust in them.

A separate Barna study found that about a third of practicing American Christians said spiritual advice from AI is as good as that from a pastor.

# [Trump to read from 2 Chronicles at America Reads the Bible event marking nation's 250th anniversary | Christian Post.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #bible reading, #president, #trump, #america

Apr 20, 2026

President Donald Trump will read from 2 Chronicles via a video message from the Oval Office on Tuesday, taking part in America Reads the Bible, a weeklong public Scripture-reading initiative organized to mark the 250th anniversary of the United States' independence.

Trump will deliver his reading during the 6 p.m. ET hour on Tuesday, according to [America Reads the Bible](#), the organizing body behind the initiative.

He will read from 2 Chronicles 7:11–22, a passage that includes the verse: “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from Heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

Dr. Ben Carson, a neurosurgeon and former U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development during Trump's first administration, and his wife, Candy Carson, are scheduled to follow the president's reading.

The event brings together nearly 500 leaders and representatives of 122 ministries in Washington, D.C., for a continuous public reading of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

Daily readings run from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the Museum of the Bible's World Stage Theater from Sunday through Saturday. An opening celebration was held Saturday.

House Speaker Mike Johnson also [took part in the opening celebration](#) and is scheduled to read from Genesis 24, which traces the generational blessing from Abraham to Isaac.

Johnson said in a [statement](#) he was honored to stand alongside fellow Americans acknowledging the moral and religious heritage of the nation.

Bunni Pounds, founder and president of Christians Engaged, is behind the initiative and modeled it after the biblical account of Ezra's public reading of Scripture. In a statement issued ahead of the event, Pounds called the passage one of the most

important Scripture readings for the American Church. She said the president's participation would give hope for national healing and renewal.

The event's theme is "One Week. One Nation. One Book." Great American Pure Flix is livestreaming the full week of readings, and the public is invited to attend in person or watch online.

The White House issued a [presidential message](#) recognizing the initiative on Friday, the eve of the opening celebration.

The message traced the Bible's role in U.S. history from the arrival of the Mayflower through the founding period and into the present. It cited John Winthrop's 1630 invocation of the Sermon on the Mount, the Declaration of Independence and the 1787 Northwest Ordinance. It also referenced a letter from President John Adams to Benjamin Rush in which Adams called the Bible the most profound work of philosophy and morality ever conceived.

The message further cited the inaugural oath of George Washington, who placed his hand on the Bible and kissed it after taking office. The White House noted that Abraham Lincoln quoted Scripture four times and mentioned God 14 times in his Second Inaugural Address. The presidential message also cited Franklin D. Roosevelt's radio prayer on the eve of the Normandy landings in 1944 and Ronald Reagan's 1983 proclamation, which named that year the Year of the Bible.

Multiple members of the Trump administration are scheduled to participate alongside the president. They include Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, White House Chief of Staff Susie Wiles, Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins, Interior Secretary Doug Burgum, Veterans Affairs Secretary Doug Collins and Housing and Urban Development Secretary Scott Turner.

Also participating are Kevin Hassett, director of the National Economic Council; Vincent Haley, director of the White House Domestic Policy Council; Paula White-Cain, senior adviser at the White House Faith Office; and Jenny Korn, deputy assistant to the president and faith director of the White House Faith Office.

America Reads the Bible marks the 250th anniversary of U.S. independence. The Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776.

Pounds said the event is intended to prompt citizens to reconnect with the biblical foundations that have animated the republic for two and a half centuries.