



SIGNS OF THE TIMES

News Articles for Episode 292

[Raisi: Iran and Turkey agreed to support Palestinian terror - Israel Today](#)

#bibleprophecy, #iran, #turkey, #alliance

Jan 25, 2024

Iran and Turkey have agreed to back terrorist organizations fighting against Israel, Iranian President **Ebrahim Raisi** proclaimed on Wednesday following talks with Turkish President **Recep Tayyip Erdoğan**.

Speaking alongside Erdoğan at the presidential palace in Ankara, Raisi said, “In the talks we had with the Turkish president...we both agreed to support Palestine. We both agreed to support the Islamic resistance in Palestine,” according to Tehran’s semi-official *Student News Agency*.

“We must seek the formation of a just [world] order...and surely our cooperation with Turkey and with other countries can be very effective in this regard,” stated the Iranian leader. “We have no doubt that measures should be taken against the Zionist regime [Israel].”

Raisi also accused the United States of supporting Israeli “crimes” and repeated Tehran’s appeal for Muslim countries to cut ties. “What is happening in Palestine and [Gaza](#) is a crime against humanity...and the United States and the West are supporting these crimes,” he charged.

[#BREAKING: #Iran’s President Raisi in a joint press conference with #Turkish counterpart Erdogan:](#)

“Those who occupied, oppressed, and ruled the [#Palestinian](#) land for 75 years should know that continuation of these crimes does not bring legitimacy nor ownership” pic.twitter.com/C4i7etvfoV

— SNN (@snntv_en) [January 24, 2024](#)

For his part, Erdoğan said the two had discussed issues relating to Israel, Syria, the South Caucasus and Afghanistan.

“Regarding the Palestinian issue, both Turkey and Iran have a common position,” he noted.

“We talked about Israel’s inhumane attacks on [Gaza](#) and the need to end these attacks and to take important steps in this regard. Regarding the Palestinian issue, we reiterated our support once again and we will increase our cooperation in this regard,” concluded Erdoğan.

The Iranian regime's official *IRNA* news agency reported that, as part of Wednesday's visit, Erdoğan and Raisi signed 10 partnership agreements, including in the field of energy cooperation.

Iran has tripled its enrichment of [uranium](#) to 60%, reversing a slowdown earlier in 2023, the International Atomic Energy Agency recently reported. Uranium enriched to 60% purity is just a short technical step away from 90%, considered weapons-grade.

On Jan. 14, the [Islamic Republic](#) declared Hamas's victory over Israel at an event in Tehran, marking 100 days since the terrorist group's deadly Oct. 7 terror onslaught on the country's northwestern Negev region.

Hamas terrorists killed more than 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and wounded thousands in the Oct. 7 attacks. In addition, terrorists took some 240 people hostage.

"Palestine has emerged victorious and the Zionist regime and its allies have bitten the dust," said Raisi, adding: "Peace talks were of no use, the end of Israel is inevitable.

"The Palestinians have raised the level of war from a fight using stones to a war using missiles and drones. We have also declared that we will support Palestine and the resistance groups," he affirmed.

Two months ago, Erdoğan told his country's parliament that the Jewish state would soon be destroyed. "Right now, I am openly saying with clear conscience that Israel is a terrorist state," said the Islamist leader.

"Hey Israel: You have an atomic bomb, a nuclear bomb. And you are making threats with this. We know this. And your end is near," he continued.

"You can have as many nuclear bombs as you want, but you're on your way out," added Erdoğan.

After a long diplomatic cold spell, ties between Turkey and Israel had warmed, but they have slid backwards as Erdoğan continues to side with Palestinian [terror](#) groups. Erdoğan has long been a champion of the Palestinian cause and his government harbors members of [Hamas](#).

The Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs said in a 2021 report that Hamas's headquarters in Istanbul has directed hundreds of terrorist attacks against Israelis and laundered millions of dollars.

"Turkey collaborates with terror organizations on both the ideological and operational levels. Terrorists working on Turkish soil establish infrastructures and plan terror attacks against Israel," the report noted.

In the wake of its ground operation against Hamas in Gaza, Israel's National Security Council raised its travel warning to [Turkey](#) to the highest level, urging all Israelis there to leave the country immediately.

[Report: Blinken, Biden Considering Unilateral Recognition of Palestinian State \(breitbart.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #blinken, #biden, #palestine

Jan 31, 2024

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken has reportedly asked the State Department to review options for a unilateral recognition of a Palestinian state at the end of the war between Hamas and Israel — a major break from past U.S. policy, and from Israel.

Barak Ravid of Axios [reported](#):

While U.S. officials say there has been no policy change, the fact the State Department is even considering such options signals a shift in thinking within the Biden administration on possible Palestinian statehood recognition, which is highly sensitive both internationally and domestically.

For decades, U.S. policy has been to oppose the recognition of Palestine as a state both bilaterally and in UN institutions and to stress Palestinian statehood should only be achieved through direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

The story — almost certainly leaked deliberately from the State Department — comes as Blinken prepares to visit Israel for the fifth time since the Hamas terror attack on October 7 launched the war.

Though Blinken has expressed sympathy for the Israeli people, he has also tried to restrict Israel's military response, and has lately become [adamant](#) about forcing Israel to accept a Palestinian state, which would be a major win for Hamas, which would achieve that outcome after the mass murder of civilians.

Blinken has even blamed Israelis for being intransigent on a Palestinian state. The truth is that nearly two-thirds of Israelis had [supported](#) such a state in 2012 — but now nearly two-thirds oppose one, because of the way Hamas turned Gaza into a terror base.

The Biden administration pursued a Palestinian state since before October 7, even reportedly [blocking](#) a Saudi-Israeli peace deal because of the administration's insistence that it include a Palestinian state, whether the Palestinians are ready for one or not.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has adamantly opposed a Palestinian state as the outcome of the war — and he has begun to [rise](#) again in some polls, as Israelis rally behind a leader seen as the only Israeli politician who can stand up to the U.S.

[Biden, en Route to Michigan, Issues Anti-Israel Executive Order; Exaggerates 'Settler Violence' \(breitbart.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #biden, #israel, #anti-semitism

Feb 1, 2024

President Joe Biden issued an executive order Thursday that purports to target so-called “extremist settler violence” in the West Bank, but whose terms are so broad that they could be used to impose sanctions on Israeli elected leaders and political parties.

The order was issued as President Biden made a trip to Michigan, where Arab- and Muslim-American voters have threatened not to support him in the key swing state in the 2020 presidential election because of his perceived support for Israel against Hamas.

The order [claims](#) that there are “high levels” of violence directed by Jewish Israeli settlers against Palestinian residents of West Bank, known to Israelis as Judea and Samaria. In fact, such violence has not [risen](#), and is dwarfed by violence by Palestinians.

“Settler violence”

According to Israel police, in 2023 to date, Palestinians have carried out 5,600 terror attacks in Judea and Samaria. That’s 16 a day, every day. In 2023 there have been 60 altercations between Palestinians and Israeli residents of Judea and Samaria, total.

— Caroline Glick (@CarolineGlick) [December 18, 2023](#)

As analyst David Weinberg recently [noted](#) at the Jewish News Syndicate:

There is no escalating or unprecedented wave of settler violence in Judea and Samaria under cover of the war in Gaza. The frenzied focus on “settler terrorism” by the highest officials in Washington is based on fake news.

Overall, the level of friction/violence in 2023 is about the same as that of 2022, totaling about 1,000 instances of violence of all types over the course of the full year.

In 2022, there were more than 5,000 Palestinian terror attacks against Israeli Jews, including car-rammings, shootings, stabbings and bombings of innocent men, women and children. These attacks included over 500 firebombings, leading to the injury of more than 150 Israelis. There was a 210% rise in rock-throwing incidents in 2021 over 2020 and a 156% rise in bomb-throwing incidents in 2021 over 2020.

Notably, the executive order does not provide any factual basis or evidentiary record substantiating its claims.

The claims about “extremist settler violence” are used as a way of balancing criticism of Palestinian terrorism, and appeasing a restive anti-Israel constituency in the Democratic Party.

The overwhelming majority of “settlers” — that is, Israeli citizens who live in communities across the 1949 armistice line — are peaceful. But the language of the executive order is so sweeping that it could theoretically be applied to non-violent people.

For example, the executive order allows sanctions to be imposed on anyone found to “have acted or purported to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, any person blocked pursuant to this order,” meaning it could apply to a lawyer, or anyone who argues on behalf of an accused “settler.” Moreover the executive order allows the president to sanction any “entity” that has members who are sanctioned, which could mean that the U.S. could sanction parties or leaders in the Israeli government. The White House’s national security spokesman, John Kirby, told reporters on Air Force One that the U.S. was not sanctioning any Israeli leaders “at this time,” but left open the possibility.

Already, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), whose executive director [celebrated](#) the October 7 terror attack, has demanded in a press release that the Biden administration begin sanctioning right-wing members of the Israeli government.

As Breitbart news has [noted](#):

In 2007-8, CAIR was [named](#) an unindicted co-conspirator in the terror financing trial of the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development. That case, in turn, led the FBI to [discontinue](#) its work with the organization. In 2009, a federal judge [ruled](#) that the government “produced ample evidence to establish” the ties of CAIR with Hamas, the Palestinian terror organization. The United Arab Emirates [labeled](#) CAIR a terrorist organization in 2014 (a decision that the Obama administration [opposed](#)).

The timing of the executive order comes as the U.S. is pressuring Israel to accept a Palestinian state at the end of the war, despite the fact that doing so would reward Hamas for the terrorism of October 7; and as the U.S. reportedly presses Israel to accept a hostage deal that would end the war short of achieving Israel’s objective of destroying Hamas’s military capabilities and ending its governing role in Gaza.

Update: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu issued a statement in response:

The overwhelming majority of residents in Judea and Samaria are law-abiding citizens, many of whom are currently fighting – as conscripts and reservists – to defend Israel.

Israel acts against all Israelis who break the law, everywhere; therefore, exceptional measures are unnecessary.

Mission and Vision | World Government Summit

#bibleprophecy, #government, #dubai, #one world

Feb 2024

Our Mission:

To Inspire and Enable The Next Generation of Governments

The World Government Summit organization aspires to improve the lives of citizens across the world by empowering institutions and decision-makers with the knowledge to shape a better future.

The World Government Summit is the only global organization dedicated to shaping the future of governments and setting the agenda for the next generation of governments worldwide.

The Summit provides a unique platform to showcase and exchange best practices and smart solutions to the challenges that nations face. It comprises a wide network of leaders of the public and private sectors, and inspires them to think collectively and creatively about disruptive intersections between government and innovation, with the ultimate goal of promoting development and prosperity around the world.

Our Vision:

To Become the Global Platform for Shaping Future Governments

The World Government Summit aims to be the global platform dedicated to shaping future governments. It seeks to set the agenda for leaders and policymakers to debate on how the next generation of governments can harness innovation and technology to solve the challenges facing humanity today and in the future.

[Elon Musk says 'single world government' could lead to end of civilization at World Government Summit | Fox Business](#)

#bibleprophecy, #government, #dubai, #one world

Feb 15, 2024

Elon Musk compares the modern day to fall of Rome and rise of Islamic arts and sciences, stating their separated societies allowed human progress to continue

[Billionaire Elon Musk](#) on Wednesday gave brief remarks at the World Government Summit, warning attendees to avoid excessive cooperation because it could pose an existential threat.

The [2023 World Government Summit](#) commenced Monday in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Musk delivered his speech remotely via video call.

"I know this is called the 'World Government Summit,' but I think we should be a little bit concerned about actually becoming too much of a single world government," Musk said.

"If I may say, we want to avoid creating a civilizational risk by having — frankly, this might sound a little odd — too much cooperation between governments," the Tesla CEO continued.

Musk referenced the [fall of Rome](#), which took place in the 5th century, as an example of civilizational collapse.

He pointed to the simultaneous advancements in the arts and sciences among [Islamic societies](#) as an example of the benefits of separated civilizations that are capable of survival without the other.

Musk explained, "While Rome was falling, Islam was rising, so you had a caliphate doing well while Rome was doing terribly. And that ended up being a source of preservation of knowledge and many scientific advancements."

"So I think we need to be a little conscious of being too much of a single civilization because if we are too much of a single civilization, then the whole thing may collapse," he continued.

"I'm obviously not suggesting war or anything like that. But I think we want to be a little wary of actually cooperating too much," Musk concluded. "It sounds a little odd, but we want to have some amount of civilizational diversity so that if something does go wrong with some part of civilization then the whole thing doesn't just collapse and humanity keeps moving forward."

Musk later [quipped on Twitter](#) that the World Government Summit "seemed like the right venue" to spread the message.

[World Government Summit announces details of 2024 agenda | Government – Gulf News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #government, #dubai, #one world

Feb 7, 2024

The World Governments Summit Organisation announced the agenda for the upcoming 11th edition of World Government Summit (WGS), set to take place between 12 and 14 February 2024 in Dubai.

Under the theme of "Shaping Future Governments" □, this year's summit will anticipate future opportunities and challenges, addressing the world's most pressing issues. Through its prominent agenda, WGS will discuss a common approach to improve governmental work and strengthen cooperation among governments worldwide. Additionally, it will focus on sharing knowledge and expertise and highlighting inspiring stories and models in governmental work.

Hosting a brilliant lineup of keynote speakers, the Summit is set to address future trends and shifts on the global level, as well as ways to foster collaboration regionally and globally. Among heads of state speaking and attending the event the President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan; Prime Minister of the Republic of India Narendra Modi; President of Rwanda, Paul Kagame; William Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya; and the President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Japarov, as well as President of Madagascar Andry Rajoelina, Maldives President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu, Mauritius President Prithvirajsing Roopun and Seychelles President Wavel Ramkalawan, who speak at one of the plenary sessions.

Mohammed Abdullah Al Gergawi, Minister of Cabinet Affairs and Chairman of the World Governments Summit Organisation, said that the summit reflects the vision of UAE President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai in shaping the future and fostering positive change.

The minister noted: "The World Government Summit 2024 provides an excellent opportunity to forge common perspectives on global developments, and come up with effective solutions for critical development and humanitarian concerns. It serves as a global platform for crafting proactive strategies to address future challenges, exchanging experiences to bolster social stability, and fulfilling the aspirations of future generations." □

Mohammed Al Gergawi added that the 11th edition of the summit will witness the participation of more than 25 Heads of state and governments, 120 governmental

delegations, over 85 international and regional organisations and institutions, along with distinguished participation of thought leaders, experts and more than 4,000 attendees.

WGS covers six main themes, through 15 global forums and over 110 interactive dialogues and sessions. Over 200 prominent speakers, including presidents, ministers, and visionaries, share their insights alongside 23 ministerial meetings and executive sessions welcoming over 300 ministers.

The summit is set to launch around 25 strategic reports, covering crucial practices and trends across key sectors. These reports encompass forums, ministerial meetings, and knowledge-sharing sessions. Additionally, the WGS 2024 will launch the Global Ministers Survey. Ministers from across the globe are invited to share their ideas on crucial global issues and collaborate in enhancing solutions together.

The Arab Fiscal Forum, on Day Zero, will address macroeconomic developments and prospects, energy subsidiary reforms and social safety nets, as well as generating value from public assets among other relevant topics. HE Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund will be speaking at the opening session.

Other key events on Day Zero include the Arab Meeting for Young Leaders, the World Bank Group Ministerial Experience Exchange and the Ministerial Roundtable with Arab Youth Ministers.

Day One will see various sessions under the Future of Work Forum and the Future of Mobility Forum, as well as a ministerial roundtable on Climate Action through Fostering Sustainable Finance, a Family Business Roundtable, and a roundtable addressing Scientific Discovery and Applications which will host a group of Nobel laureates.

Day two will host the Geotechnology and Policy Forum, the Artificial Intelligence Forum, the Government Experience Exchange Forum, the SDGs in Action Forum, Government Services Forum, the Arab Public Administration Forum and the Industry and Advanced Technology Forum. Topics to be discussed vary from AI challenges and opportunities through the space economy to decarbonization.

Lt. General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, will address a key session during the summit. H.H. Sheikha Latifa bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairperson of Dubai Culture and Arts Authority, will also participate in a session on the new governmental vision for creative industries.

Strategies for Sustainable Investments in Emerging Markets will be among the areas of focus on the final day of the Summit during the Emerging Economies Forum. Other events include the Future of Space Forum, the Global Health Forum, the Future of Education Forum, and several roundtables addressing responsible AI and digital transformation among other topics.

The World Governments Summit will present several global awards including the Best Minister in the World award, the Dubai International for Best Sustainable Development Practices, the Creative Government Innovations Award, the Global Award for the Best Government Applications and the Global Government Excellence Award.

Who's really in control? Biden admin begins punishing Jewish 'settlers' - Israel Today

#bibleprophecy, #biden, #west bank, #israel

Feb 5, 2024

Bypassing the Israeli legal system, the Biden White House uses executive orders to force Israeli banks to freeze the assets of Jewish farmers.

US President Joe Biden speaks in the White House Rose Garden on Oct. 11, 2023. Credit: Oliver Contreras/official White House photo.

The administration of US President **Joe Biden** has taken Israeli law into its own hands by issuing an executive order that compelled Israeli banks to freeze the assets of at least four Jewish residents of Judea and Samaria, the so-called “West Bank.”

In the executive order issued last Thursday, the White House said it was imposing sanctions against “persons undermining peace, security and stability in the West Bank.” Notably, the order only targets Jews. The assets of senior Palestinian Authority leaders, despite their [demonstrable participation](#) in incitement and violence against Israel, are left untouched.

The order goes on to falsely claim “high levels of extremist settler [read: Jewish] violence, forced displacement of people and villages and property destruction.”

The order specifically names four accused Israelis—**Yinon Levi** of Meitarim Farm; **David Chai Chasdai** of Givat Ronen; **Einan Tanjil** of Kiryat Ekron; and **Shalom Zicherman** of Mitzpe Yair—though it can and no doubt will be applied to others in the future.

The Biden administration said the order was part of a more “holistic approach” to the Middle East conflict, which is a subtle way of saying it won’t take Israel’s side, and must create balance by punishing Jews.

It should be pointed out, however, that none of the four men named by the White House have been convicted of crimes by the Israeli judicial system. Under the concept of “innocent until proven guilty” that is so championed by the United States, these men remain innocent. Unless the Americans are now signaling that they don’t trust the Israeli judicial system, which would be odd given Biden’s harsh criticism of Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu’s** [judicial reform](#).

Biden can claim that his executive order has nothing to do with Israeli law because it only explicitly bars *US individuals and companies* from providing assets or services to the accused. But the president and his administration know perfectly well the implications of such an order in Israel, where the banking system is compelled to comply with US orders and regulations, or risk being cut off from the American financial system. Israelis with US citizenship have to sign additional documentation when opening bank accounts in Israel so that the IRS can keep tabs on them.

Given this situation, Bank Leumi, where **Yinon Levi** does business, immediately informed him that in light of Biden's executive order, it was freezing his assets and closing his accounts.

"The executive order is a result of requests to Biden by the anarchist, anti-Zionist left, which hates the Jewish people and made up a bunch of stories about Israel's pioneers," Levi told the *Kan* public broadcaster on Sunday. But he also vowed: "Biden, who is unable to deal with the Houthis who murder American soldiers, doesn't scare us. We will continue to settle the Land of Israel without fear."

Bank Hapoalim, where **Einan Tanjil** and **Shalom Zicherman** have accounts, said it will take similar action soon for fear of getting on Washington's bad side.

Finance Minister **Bezalel Smotrich** responded by insisting that Israel is "not a banana republic of the United States," and promising to take action to prevent the banks from harming Israeli citizens.

[Canada halts assisted suicide program for mentally ill due to lack of doctors | Fox News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #canada, #death, #euthanasia

Jan 27, 2024

Canada slows plans to allow the mentally ill to take part in assisted suicide program

Canada has delayed the extension of its assisted suicide program to people suffering solely from mental illness, [health officials announced](#) Monday.

Canada offers medically assisted death to terminally and chronically ill people, but the plan to extend the program to people with mental illnesses has divided Canadians, the [New York Times reported](#). Some critics attribute the problem to a lack of adequate psychiatric care in the country.

The [controversial policy](#) would allow anyone in Canada with an incurable medical condition to apply for assisted suicide, even if the disease is not terminal, which makes the law one of the most liberal assisted suicide programs in the world.

[MORE THAN A QUARTER OF CANADIANS THINK HOMELESSNESS, POVERTY ARE REASONS FOR ASSISTED SUICIDE](#)

Canada introduced medically assisted dying after its [Supreme Court ruled in 2015](#) that requiring people to cope with intolerable suffering infringed on fundamental rights to liberty and security. The law was expanded in 2021 to include people experiencing "grievous and irremediable" conditions, such as depression and other mental health issues.

Over 13,000 Canadians were euthanized as part of the program in 2022, the [Daily Mail reported](#).

When the program was [announced last year](#), one conservative lawmaker "charged that the Liberal government of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is promoting a 'culture of death.'"

"Have we gone too far and too fast with Canada's assisted suicide program?" Conservative MP Ed Fast said. "Will we evolve into a culture of death as the preferred option for those who suffer from mental illness or will we choose life?"

[CANADIAN PANEL PUSHES ASSISTED SUICIDE FOR MINORS WITHOUT PARENTAL CONSENT](#)

But now, health officials are slow-walking plans to expand the program, stating there are not enough doctors, specifically psychiatrists, in Canada to evaluate mentally ill people who wish to die, according to the announcement made by Health Minister Mark Holland and Justice Minister Arif Virani. This followed a meeting of the special parliamentary committee looking into the plan, the Times reported.

"The system needs to be ready, and we need to get it right," Holland [told reporters](#). "It's clear from the conversations we've had that the system is not ready, and we need more time."

"Although the curriculum is present, although the guidelines are set, there has not been enough time for people to be trained on them, and provinces and territories are saying their systems are not ready and need more time," he added.

[MINNESTOTA LAWMAKERS INITIATE DEBATE ON PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL](#)

The officials did not provide a timeline for the changes, although the expansion had been previously [scheduled to go into effect](#) on March 17.

One group in favor of medical assistance in dying, "Dying with Dignity Canada," issued a statement in reaction to the news, urging the Canadian government to provide clarity on their plan of action.

"For the people across the country who live with treatment-resistant mental disorders who have patiently waited for this change in Canada's MAID law, Dying With Dignity Canada is disheartened and shares the frustration of the continued exclusion, stigmatization and discrimination based on diagnosis," the group said.

[World leaders are gathering to discuss Disease X. Here's what to know about the hypothetical pandemic. - CBS News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #disease x, #pandemic, #wef

Jan 17, 2024

World leaders gathered at the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, on Wednesday to discuss Disease X, a hypothetical virus 20 times deadlier than COVID-19.

While such a virus isn't known to currently exist, researchers, scientists and experts are hoping to proactively come up with a plan of action to combat such a virus and prepare the health system if it were to emerge as a pandemic — a possibility one expert [told CBS News](#) could happen sooner than we think.

"There are strains of viruses that have very high mortality rates that could develop the ability to transmit efficiently from human to human," said Dr. Amesh Adalja of the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security.

What is Disease X?

In 2022, the World Health Organization brought together 300 scientists to look into 25 virus families and bacteria to create a list of pathogens that they believe have the potential to wreak havoc and should be studied more. Included on that list is Disease X, which was first recognized by the organization in 2018.

The WHO says the virus "represents the knowledge that a serious international epidemic could be caused by [an unknown] pathogen."

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus [said Wednesday](#) in Davos that COVID-19 may have been our first "Disease X," and that scientists and experts are actively learning from that experience.

From where could a pathogen like Disease X originate?

A deadly pathogen like Disease X, which would likely be a respiratory virus, according to Adalja, could already be circulating in animal species and is just not able to be transmitted to humans yet.

"That could be [bats](#) like COVID-19, it could be in birds like bird flu, or it could be some other type of animal species, swine for example," he said. "It's really about that interface between humans and animals, where interactions are occurring, that these types of viruses get a foothold."

How are experts preparing for Disease X?

If we are unprepared, it is likely a disease of that scale could cause even more damage than we experienced with COVID-19, which has killed more than 7 million people, according to the WHO.

"If we did so poorly with something like COVID-19, you can imagine how poorly we would do with something like a 1918-level event," Adalja said, referring to the influenza pandemic of 1918 that killed an estimated 50 million people around the world, according to the [Cleveland Clinic](#).

That's why experts from around the world have been working on a robust and effective plan to prepare for the worst-case scenario. Ghebreyesus said an early-warning system and a plan for health infrastructure, which was overburdened during the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to many deaths, could help in a future scenario.

"Whether it's in health systems or even the private sector, by the way — research and development — you can prepare for it," he said.

Another major lesson from COVID-19 is the importance of transparency, Adalja said.

"I think what we see now is this distrust between infectious disease physicians, public health practitioners and the general public, because what happened is politicians injected themselves into this," he said. "People may not actually be receptive to the protective actions that are being recommended by public health officials."

Ghebreyesus said the WHO, in partnership with other global organizations, has already put initiatives in place in preparation for the next major pandemic or epidemic. These efforts include the pandemic fund to help nations with resources, the mRNA vaccine technology transfer hub to ensure vaccine equity for low-income nations and the hub for pandemic and epidemic intelligence to improve collaborative surveillance between countries.

[Elon Musk says first human patient received Neuralink brain implant and is recovering well | Fox Business](#)

#bibleprophecy, #brain implact, #neuralink, #elon musk

Jan 29, 2024

Musk said, 'Initial results show promising neuron spike detection'

[Billionaire CEO Elon Musk](#) said the first human to receive a Neuralink cybernetic implant did so on Sunday and is recovering well.

In September, Neuralink announced it was holding open recruitment for the first-in-human clinical trial of its wireless brain-computer interface (BCI).

In the announcement, Neuralink said the Precise Robotically Implanted [Brain-Computer Interface](#) (PRIME) study would evaluate the safety of the company's implant (N1) and surgical robot (R1), while assessing whether the device can help paralyzed people control external devices with their thoughts.

On Sunday, the first implant was placed in a human.

"The first human received an implant from @Neuralink yesterday and is recovering well," Musk tweeted on his social media platform X. "Initial results show promising neuron spike detection."

The tech mogul also tweeted that the first version of Neuralink is called Telepathy, explaining that it enables people to control their phone or computer, and through them almost any device, just by thinking.

"Initial users will be those who have lost the use of their limbs," Musk said. "Imagine if Stephen Hawking could communicate faster than a speed typist or auctioneer. That is the goal."

[ELON MUSK'S BRAIN IMPLANT TECHNOLOGY GAINS FDA APPROVAL](#)

Hawking, the late theoretical physicist, suffered from Lou Gehrig's disease, a rare condition that causes paralysis.

Neuralink received approval from the [Food and Drug Administration](#) (FDA) to proceed with human trials for brain implants back in May.

[ELON MUSK 'CONFIDENT' IN NEURALINK MICROCHIP DEVICE, EXPECTS TO BEGIN HUMAN TRIALS IN SIX MONTHS](#)

Musk had sought approval for human trials since 2019, but in early 2022, Neuralink's application was rejected. The company has since worked through concerns expressed by the FDA over the safety of the implant.

Musk launched Neuralink in 2016 with the goal of developing a chip that would allow the brain to control complex electronic devices and eventually allow people with paralysis to regain motor function.

The technology, if successful, would combine [artificial intelligence with human capabilities](#) through the use of a brain chip. Musk said he hopes it would help treat brain diseases like Parkinson's, dementia and Alzheimer's.

[How this church in San Francisco is evangelizing to the 'nones' | Fox News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #salvation, #agnostic, #evangelism

Jan 29, 2024

If a person were to ask a teenage Russ Ewell where he thought his life would end up, probably the last thing he would have said is "executive minister at a church in San Francisco" and "working hard to bring people to Jesus."

Ewell, executive minister at [Bay Area Christian Church](#), told Fox News Digital in a recent phone interview that his background makes him particularly dedicated to bringing the religiously unaffiliated — the "nones" — to God.

As a teenager growing up in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Ewell "had a lot of friends who were religious," he said — yet he personally "wouldn't have anything to do with that."

"They tried to get me to go to stuff and do things, and I wouldn't have anything to do with it," he said.

Looking back, Ewell says his teenage self would probably be best described as "agnostic."

"I did not want to go to church. I did not go to church," he said.

Instead, Ewell said he aspired to go into politics and work as a politician.

That changed during college when he got to know a man he played basketball with, he said.

"After I got to know him, I learned he was a Christian — and I began to give the Bible a chance," he said.

"And so when I gave the Bible a chance, that was a big deal, because I've not ever read the New Testament and I didn't know anything about Jesus."

Reading the Bible, he said, was an eye-opening experience.

"I looked at it, and I was like, 'I didn't even know this was all in here,'" he said.

After dedicating his [life to Christ](#), Ewell set aside his political aspirations and turned to ministry, much to the shock of his family and friends.

Right now, [a report from Pew Research has found](#) that about 28% of Americans consider themselves not religiously affiliated — "nones." This is actually a slight drop from 2022, when 31% of Americans were "nones."

Pew Research published its report last Wednesday. "The identical results we've found in three of the last five years are a sign of stability in the size of this population," Pew said of its findings. "At the same time, in two of the last five years, we obtained readings above 28%."

Ewell, and his church, have a special dedication to bringing those "nones" to faith.

"We built this program, and it serves thousands of kids."

The Bay Area Christian Church has numerous programs to engage the community, including a program called E-Sports. It's a sports league for children and adults with special needs who play alongside those who do not have special needs.

Two of Ewell's own children have special needs, he told Fox News Digital.

"And so we built this program, and it serves thousands of kids. And we don't have any expectation that people have a [religious affiliation](#)," he said.

The Bay Area Christian Church also has a program to assist drug addicts in recovery. It partnered with a local hospital during the COVID-19 pandemic to help with getting vaccines to vulnerable populations.

"Instead of coming in with judgments and with stereotypes of [religious people], and instead of speaking in a cultural language that's more religious, we try to speak and understand the language of meeting people where they are," he said.

His church aims to "just be normal and friendly and caring about people," while remaining engaged in the community, he said.

It is his hope that, much like his own encounter [with Christianity](#) through the world sports, he is able to reach those who were just like he was — and bring them into a place of faith.

Part of that is breaking down the cultural barrier between people of faith and the "nones," he said.

"When I was a 'none,' it was entering into an extremely different culture," he said. "I'd never been in a religious culture."

Rather than use religious language, Ewell aims to have a more spiritual bent in his approach.

"The biggest thing I've learned is that culture, sometimes within church, can be a culture that people outside of church don't understand," he said. "But the numbers really tell the tale."

He continued, "People understand or are interested in spirituality, whether [it's in nature](#), whether it's in searching inwardly to find who they are or to deal with and resolve issues of their life," he said.

"And if we can learn to speak the language of spirituality instead of the language of religiosity, I think we will have great impact."