



# **SIGNS OF THE TIMES**

**News Articles for Episode 244**

# Israel Has Seen over 2,100 Terror Attacks Between January and October 2022 - Israel365 News

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #attacks

Dec 25, 2022

For they cannot rest until they do evil; they are robbed of sleep till they make someone stumble. Proverbs 4:16 (the Israel bible)

Between January and October 2022, Israel has registered over 2,100 terror attacks according to recent data published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In the month of October, terror struck Israel 401 times, marking a sharp increase from previous months. In September, there were 254 attacks and in August 208.

As a result of the attacks in October, three people were killed and 19 were injured. The attacks included 258 firebomb attacks, 6 pipe bomb attacks, 46 incidents of small arms fire, 32 arson attacks, 2 vehicular attacks and 2 assaults. All of the attacks took place either in Judea and Samaria or in Jerusalem and the Green Line areas.

As clearly shown by the Foreign Ministry's data, most terror attacks in Israel in general occur in Judea and Samaria.

This development is not new.

Over twenty years ago, [David Rubin](#) and his son were also victims of a terror attack. Since then, he has made supporting other survivors one of his life missions.

At the end of 2001, Rubin, a former mayor of Shiloh, was driving home from Jerusalem with his three-year-old son, when the car was ambushed by three Fatah terrorists and he was shot in the leg by a gunman with an AK-47 assault rifle. The boy was hit in the head causing a skull fracture and internal bleeding in the cerebellum. The bullet missed his brain stem by one millimeter and he survived.

"Thank God, my son is physically okay now," Rubin says. "But he is still dealing with the experience emotionally to this day."

Transformed by the experience, Rubin wanted to build something positive after the event. In 2004, he established the [Shiloh Israel Children's Fund](#) in order to help children living in the biblical heartland recover from trauma. The organization supports therapeutic, educational, and recreational programs.

"We saw so many people coping with the after effects," he added. "But children in Judea and Samaria have suffered disproportionately from terrorism."

# [Netanyahu to Make West Bank Pledge for Saudi Peace Deal | Newsmax.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #saudiarabia, #peacedeal

Dec 26, 2022

Incoming Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is reportedly [considering](#) the suspension of his pledge to annex the West Bank in exchange for a historic peace deal with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Israel's Yedioth Ahronoth news reported that Israel, the Saudi Kingdom, and the United States are already engaged in talks for a peace deal.

If such an agreement materializes, it could be the fifth one between the Jewish state and an Arab country under the umbrella of the Abraham Accords.

U.S. Ambassador to Israel Tom Nides recently told ALL ISRAEL NEWS Editor-in-Chief Joel C. Rosenberg that the Biden administration will "work tirelessly with the Israelis and the Saudis."

The report noted that far-right parties will not stand in Netanyahu's way to sign a similar deal with the Saudis.

However, Netanyahu's pledge to declare sovereignty over parts of the West Bank is included in his agreement with coalition partners from the Religious Zionism party, according to the report.

The annexation of the area – referred to as Judea and Samaria – was also put on hold when Israel signed normalization agreements with the UAE and Bahrain in 2020.

During his election campaign and prior to U.S. President Joe Biden's visit to the region last summer, Netanyahu vowed to bring peace with the Saudi Kingdom if elected again as prime minister.

"If I return to lead the State of Israel on your behalf, I intend to bring about full peace agreements with Saudi Arabia and also with other Arab countries," Netanyahu said in a televised statement.

In his first-ever interview with a Saudi newspaper earlier this month, Netanyahu said that he believes that peace with Saudi Arabia will serve two purposes.

"It will be a quantum leap for an overall peace between Israel and the Arab world, it will change our region in ways that are unimaginable," he told Al Arabiya's English-language daily, "and I think it will facilitate, ultimately, a Palestinian-Israeli peace. I believe in that. I intend to pursue it."

Last year, Saudi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Adel Al-Jubeir said that normalization with Israel was contingent upon its resolution of the conflict with the Palestinians.

# [CDC Pushes Teachers to Measure Commitment to 'LGBTQ Inclusivity' Instruction \(breitbart.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #cdc, #lgbtq, #teachers

Dec 28, 2022

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has issued an “assessment tool” for teachers and school administrators to measure their commitment to “LGBTQ inclusivity” in their classrooms.

The [tool](#) asks leading questions about school personnel and their faithfulness to queer theory, including encouraging sexual education teachers to have gender neutral anatomy, referring to boys as “body with a penis” and girls as “body with a vagina.”

It pushes advocacy, membership in a school’s “Gay/Straight Alliance,” the social transitioning of children including use of facilities of the opposite sex, and decorating classrooms with LGBT propaganda.

“The CDC’s imprimatur on this ‘self-assessment tool’ — and the inclusion of numerous links to resources and activist organizations — amounts to little more than bullying teachers, administrators, and school health professionals who might have reservations about ‘affirmation’ and ‘inclusion’ efforts in schools,” Parents Defending Education founder and president Nicole Neily told Breitbart News. “It is troubling that during a global pandemic, this is where the CDC’s efforts were focused.”

The CDC’s Division of Adolescent and School Health posted the “LGBTQ Inclusivity in Schools: A Self-Assessment Tool” to Twitter on Tuesday. As a self-assessment, the goal of the tool is to rate a teacher’s or school administrator’s commitment to the ideology and suggest places where they can be better “allies.”

While the CDC says the guide is not mandatory at a national level, it appears entirely possible that a school administrator could make it mandatory for their school.

Faithfulness to the ideology is measured on a “LGBTQ Inclusivity Continuum,” which rates persons as “commit to change,” “beginning to break through,” and “awesome ally.”

CDC “Inclusivity Continuum.” (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).

If a teacher or administrator is “minimally inclusive,” they are “not yet well prepared to provide inclusive and supportive environments for LGBTQ students. Commit to making changes, and you will move up the continuum in no time!”

School personnel who are “beginning to break through” have more “work” to do on “broadening your horizons further, address your barriers, and expand your efforts further towards being an ally.”

Even the “highly inclusive” have more “work” to do, as they must “recogniz[e] there is always more you can do. Like all good allies, you will want to continue exploring and learning and share your knowledge with others.”

According to the CDC, the tool “is not ... a ‘one-and-done’ tool for measuring inclusivity or a tool for people to get a ‘high’ score on and assume they have no more work to do.” Rather, the tool takes the tact of many left-wing ideologies — that to be a true activist, the “work” is perpetual.

To be the most inclusive, the teacher or administrator must strongly agree with each statement, suggesting that those who are not performing the actions in the assessment to a sufficient degree must be reeducated for gender ideology. The tool recommends resources for such reeducation.

In the assessment created for “all users,” school personnel are asked to rate whether they can “assume a student’s gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation.”

Personnel are also not supposed to use gendered terms like “boyfriend” and “girlfriend” when referring to couples, but rather use the gender-neutral term “partner.” Similarly, the use of “inclusive terminology” like “preferred pronouns” and “chosen names” instead of their actual pronouns and names is stipulated to.

This social transitioning has recently been found to be much more dangerous than doctors have been saying, with a study [finding](#) that such actions actually “perpetuate” gender dysphoria in children, with several European countries sounding the alarm on the practice.

Testing whether a person’s “advocacy” levels are acceptable, the assessment encourages school staff to “correct those around me if I hear them using incorrect, outdated, derogatory, or harmful language or terminology.”

“I advocate for LGBTQ inclusive and affirming materials in all school and classroom environments,” the assessment reads further. Similarly to social transitioning — which is part of “gender-affirmation” — such a method of “care” for gender-confused children has been found to have no basis in medicine.

At the end of the assessment, one rates their answers and is recommended resources in order to become “allies.”

CDC “LGBTQ Inclusivity” assessment resource recommendations. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).

The assessment for administrators is somewhat different, asking whether they pursue policies that “allows students to use the bathroom/locker room which aligns with their chosen gender.”

It also appears the CDC wants administrators to allow a student to change his or her “paperwork to present their chosen name and pronouns, **rather than their legal name.**” [Emphasis added].

In addition, administrators should follow technology policies that allow students to access “age-appropriate LGBTQ content and information.” The assessment does not suggest what “age-appropriate” means, but these policies are typically pushed by persons who believe drag queen events are “age-appropriate” for young children.

The assessment for educators encourages teachers to have propaganda in their classroom that “includes visual labels (e.g. rainbow flags, pink triangles, unisex bathroom signs) marking it as a safe space for LGBTQ students.”

Similarly, instruction material ought to be laced with gender ideology, “ensur[ing] LGBTQ people, history, events, and resources are presented.”

For those who teach sexual education, information on a “range of gender identities and sexual orientations” must be presented.

“During sexual health education lessons, I present information on all types of sex, not centering on penis/vagina penetrative sex,” the assessment continues.

# [China Sends 71 Warplanes, 7 Ships Toward Taiwan | Newsmax.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #china, #taiwan, #war

Dec 25, 2022

China's military sent 71 planes and seven ships toward Taiwan in a 24-hour display of force directed at the island, Taiwan's defense ministry said Monday, after China expressed anger at Taiwan-related provisions in a U.S. annual defense spending bill passed on Saturday.

China's military harassment of self-ruled Taiwan, which it claims is its own territory, has intensified in recent years, and the Communist Party's People's Liberation Army has sent planes or ships toward the island on a near-daily basis.

Between 6 a.m. Sunday and 6 a.m. Monday, 47 of the Chinese planes crossed the median of the Taiwan Strait, an unofficial boundary once tacitly accepted by both sides, according to Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense.

Among the planes China sent towards Taiwan were 18 J-16 fighter jets, 11 J-1 fighters, 6 Su-30 fighters and drones.

Taiwan said it monitored the Chinese moves through its land-based missile systems, as well as on its own navy vessels.

"This is a firm response to the current US-Taiwan escalation and provocation," said Shi Yi, the spokesman for the PLA's Eastern Theater Command, in a statement on Sunday night. It announced that the PLA was holding joint combat patrols and joint strike drills in the waters around Taiwan.

Shi was referring to the U.S. defense spending bill, which calls China a strategic challenge. With regard to the Indo-Pacific region, the legislation authorizes increased security cooperation with Taiwan and requires expanded cooperation with India on emerging defense technologies, readiness and logistics.

China's military has often used large military exercises as a demonstration of force in response to U.S. government actions in support of Taiwan. It conducted large live-fire military exercises in August in response to U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan. Beijing views visits from foreign governments to the island as de facto recognition of the island as independent and a challenge to China's claim of sovereignty.



# [Washington police warns of alarming sex trafficking trend before holidays: 'Fastest growing criminal industry' | Fox News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #trafficking, #crime, #souls

Dec 22, 2022

Spokane police previously handled case of father accused of murdering daughter's boyfriend for allegedly selling her into Seattle sex trafficking ring

The [Washington police department](#) that handled a murder case involving a father accused of stabbing his daughter's 19-year-old boyfriend to death for allegedly selling her into a sex trafficking ring in the Seattle area issued a new warning Wednesday on the "fastest growing criminal industry in the world today."

The Spokane Police Department posted to its Facebook page announcing that a recent anti-sex trafficking operation resulted in the successful removal of a trafficked juvenile from the streets.

On Dec. 14, FBI Spokane Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking Task Force, in conjunction with Kalispel Tribal Police, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and members of the Spokane Regional Safe Streets Task Force, conducted an anti-sex trafficking operation at Northern Quest Resort & Casino in Airway Heights.

The operation resulted in contacts with six women involved in [trafficking and/or commercial sex work](#), police said. In one contact, task force members were able to connect a trafficked juvenile with her family and begin an investigation into those responsible for trafficking her.

"Human/sex trafficking can happen anywhere and is reportedly the fastest growing criminal industry in the world today," Spokane police said Wednesday. "The FBI Spokane Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking Task Force is a dedicated anti-trafficking unit consisting of FBI, Spokane Police Department, and Spokane County Sheriff's Office members. The unit works tirelessly to identify and apprehend those involved in the recruitment, transportation, harboring, and sale of people for labor or services. Task Force members also work to provide victims support and alternative lifestyle options."

The [Spokane Police Department](#) said the primary purpose of these operations is twofold – identifying traffickers and providing resources for sex-trafficked victims. Four of the contacts in the Dec. 14 operation, all of whom are adult women, resulted in connecting with advocates from the Kalispel Tribe and the FBI who are skilled in providing services to help move women out of the sex trade lifestyle, police said.

One contact resulted in a woman being arrested on a felony assault and theft warrant.

The warning comes more than a year after Spokane police announced the arrest of [61-year-old John Eisenman](#) in November 2021 on a charge of first-degree murder in an unrelated case.

Eisenman was accused of smashing a cinder block over the head and repeatedly stabbing his juvenile daughter's 19-year-old boyfriend for allegedly selling the girl into a sex [trafficking ring in the Seattle-area](#) – about a four to five-hour drive from Spokane – in November 2020. The father had rescued his missing daughter in October of that year.

The boyfriend's body wasn't found until a year later in the trunk of an abandoned vehicle left in a remote area.

A Spokane police detective later said in court documents that he "has not been able to document any independent and verifiable facts" that the deceased man somehow trafficked Eisenman's daughter.

Eisenman allegedly admitted to being high on methamphetamine when [he killed the man](#).

According to court documents, the girl's boyfriend did abandon her at a gas station in the Seattle area when police arrived because he was driving a stolen vehicle. She claimed her boyfriend was "selling me for drugs" and that she lived homeless in the area for about three weeks as "they just passed me around," Spokesman reported.

Eisenman remains held on a \$1 million bond, according to Spokane County Jail online records.

# [Biggest natural disasters of 2022: earthquakes, snowstorms, fires and more | Fox News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #2022, #majordisasters, #destruction

Dec 24, 2022

Devastating earthquakes and floods destroyed billions in property and claimed thousands of lives

In 2022 the world witnessed a series of [major disasters](#) that caused widespread destruction, tearing up homes and communities and, in some cases, taking lives.

Here is a look back at some of the biggest natural disasters in the United States and around the world in 2022:

## **UNDERSEA VOLCANIC ERUPTION IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN**

On Jan. 15, 2022, an undersea volcano [erupted in the South Pacific](#), near the island Kingdom of Tonga. The eruption prompted tsunami warnings for the archipelago and even as far away as the U.S. west coast.

New Zealand and Australian Defense Force Surveillance flights showed significant damages to houses, roads, water, tanks and other infrastructure along the west coast of Tongatapu. Seismologists said it was one of the largest recorded eruptions since Krakatoa in 1883.

## **PAKISTAN FLOODS KILLS MORE THAN 1,700 PEOPLE**

Record-breaking flooding walloped Pakistan between June and October, washing away thousands of homes and taking the lives of at least [1,739 people](#).

Government estimates of the damage were at least \$30 billion as crops, roads, roads, livestock, bridges, houses, schools, and medical facilities were washed away.

Nearly 8 million people were displaced, left without a home or proper health care. Many of them were living in the open exposed to diseases like malaria, diarrhea, dengue fever, severe skin and eyes infections, cholera, dog and snake bites – all of which are fast spreading amid stagnant floodwaters that officials say will take several months to recede.

## **MASS WILDFIRES IN CALIFORNIA**

Though comparatively tamer than in previous years, a series of wildfires swept California between January and October. [Cal Fire estimates](#) there were around 7,592 incidents in total with an estimated 362,271 acres burned and nine fatalities. More than 100 structures were damaged and approximately 772 were destroyed.

## **EAST COAST STORM LEAVES 100,000 WITHOUT POWER, AT LEAST 3 DEAD**

A [northeastern winter storm](#) in January brought blizzard conditions to many areas and left more than 100,000 people without power.

Around the New York City area, snow totals ranged from a few inches in some areas north and west of the city to more than 2 feet in Islip on Long Island, according to the National Weather Service.

Warren, Rhode Island got more than 2 feet while Norwich, Connecticut, finished with nearly two feet. Some areas of Maine and New Hampshire also received more than a foot.

Suffolk County police said an elderly man fell into a swimming pool while shoveling snow in Southhold and was pronounced dead after resuscitation attempts failed. Nassau County officials said two men, aged 53 and 75 died in the tower of Syosset while shoveling snow.

## **EARTHQUAKE IN AFGHANISTAN KILLS AT LEAST 1,036**

A major [earthquake in eastern Afghanistan](#) killed an estimated 1,036 people and injured at least 1,500 others in June – the deadliest 2002, when a 6.1 magnitude temblor killed around 1,000 people.

The 6.1 magnitude earthquake hit the Paktika province of the country, just 10 months after the chaotic withdrawal and departure of most of the international community from the region, complicating efforts to offer relief to the nation's 38 million people.

The earthquake destroyed hundreds of houses in Paktika, with dozens remaining trapped under the debris. Countless buildings were also damaged in Khost province.

# [Hundreds of TX Churches Leave Pro-Abortion United Methodist Church \(breitbart.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #abortion, #unitedmethodist, #apostasy

Dec 7, 2022

Hundreds of churches in Texas have voted to leave the United Methodist Church denomination (UMC) for “deviating from scripture on abortion, homosexuality, and other issues,” Life News [reported](#) on Monday.

Representatives of the Northwest Texas Annual Conference of United Methodist Churches voted on Saturday to allow 145 churches to disaffiliate from the UMC during a special session in Lubbock, Texas. The report notes that the conference represents 200 congregations, and about 75 percent are leaving, meaning “the conference likely will dissolve next year.”

Another 294 churches also voted to leave the UMC during the Central Texas Annual Conference in Houston on Saturday. In total, 546 Texas Methodist churches — 45 percent — are choosing to leave the UMC this year. Methodist churches in Arkansas and Indiana have also voted to leave the UMC this year. Many of the departing churches will likely join the Global Methodist Church, which is reportedly more conservative than UMC, the report states.

The mass exit comes after “years of infighting” stemming from the UMC’s unbiblical acceptance of same-sex marriage, abortion, and other issues, according to the report.

“Pro-life pastors and members of the UMC have grown increasingly concerned with the denomination position on abortion and other issues. Until 2016, the UMC even was [affiliated with the pro-abortion group Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice](#), and some of its pastors continue to support pro-abortion causes,” the report states.

“Last year, the United Methodist Women, an organization within the denomination, issued a statement criticizing the Texas heartbeat law, which has saved thousands of unborn babies from abortion. The group vowed to “pray” for abortions to become legal again in Texas,” the report continues.

Life News notes that the UMC “does not condemn the killing of unborn babies as a sin” and instead labels abortion as a “complex” issue. In stark contrast, the Global Methodist Church [states](#):

*The sacredness of all life compels us to resist the practice of abortion except in the cases of tragic conflicts of life against life when the wellbeing of the mother and the child are at stake. We do not accept abortion as a means of birth control or gender selection, and we call upon all Christians as disciples of the Lord of Life to*

*prayerfully consider how we can support those women facing unintended pregnancies without adequate care, counsel, or resources (Exodus 22:23-23, Psalm 139:13-16, James 1:27).*

Hundreds of other churches are also reportedly planning to leave the UMC in the coming months to join the Global Methodist Church, once they receive approval from church leaders.

# [YouVersion names 2022 Bible verse of the year | Church & Ministries News \(christianpost.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #bible, #youversion, #isaiah

Dec 1, 2022

The popular YouVersion Bible app operated by Craig Groeschel's Life.Church has named [Isaiah 41:10](#) as its most referenced verse of the year amid a sharp increase in engagement with its Ukrainian-language Bible amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

This week, the multi-campus Life.Church [released the results](#) of its most recent analysis of top data trends on the YouVersion app. There were sharp rises in Ukrainian-language Bible engagement across Europe from 2021 to 2022 as many Ukrainians have taken refuge in European countries.

The [YouVersion Bible App](#) offers over 2,000 versions of the Bible in 1,868 unique languages for free. The application is installed on over 500 million devices worldwide, including smartphones and tablets.

"This year, the verse that people in Ukraine engaged with most is also the same verse that the global YouVersion Community shared, bookmarked, and highlighted most," a statement from the church reads.

Isaiah 41:10, which preaches about God's divine protection, states: "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10 was the most popular verse bookmarked and shared in over a dozen countries.

Ukrainian Bible engagement has increased in Poland by 241% and Germany by 733% for 2022. Bible engagement rose 55% this year in Ukraine while also rising by 76% across Europe.

The Russian invasion of neighboring Ukraine began in February. According to Life.Church, YouVersion searches in the Ukrainian language nearly doubled at the beginning of the war compared to the previous month, with trending search terms including "war," "fear" and "anxiety." But as time passed, the top search term in Ukrainian became "love."

Bobby Gruenewald, the founder and CEO of YouVersion and a pastor at Life Church, doesn't find it surprising that Ukrainians would turn to God's word when facing the harsh realities of war.

"These families are going through something most of us can't imagine. In the middle of what's likely the most difficult time of their lives, they're turning to the Bible for comfort, peace, and hope," he said in a statement.

This is not the first year that Isaiah 41:10 was the most referenced verse on YouVersion. It was also the most popular verse in [2018](#) and [2020](#).

Gruenewald believes the verse's popularity is a testament to how people need a reminder that they are not alone in their struggles.

"As this verse says, God is our strength, and He's always with us," he said.

YouVersion amassed over 500 million installs last November. The app was first offered in the iOS App Store in 2008 after initially launching solely as a website. On its first weekend of availability in the App Store, the app was downloaded 83,000 times.

"It's important that people understand that this is something God did, not us," Gruenewald told [The Christian Post](#) last November. "We can't take credit for this. God did this through me, and it's so crazy that God would use me. And there's a lot more that God will do and can do in future."

The ongoing crisis in Ukraine has prompted Christian nonprofits and churches to continue offering prayers and assistance during the country's time of need.

In August, the World Evangelical Alliance and the European Evangelical Alliance [called](#) on churches and believers worldwide to set aside time on Aug. 24 to pray for the war's end.

"As we look to Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, let us pray for hearts to be changed and for the weapons to be silenced," a World Evangelical Alliance statement read.

"Throughout history, God has changed hopeless and dire situations in surprising ways, and He can do it once again. And let us also pray for healing and for reconciliation, and that Russia and Ukraine could live in peace as independent, sovereign nations."



# [Rogue geoengineering outfit claims to be dumping unmonitored particles into stratosphere to change the weather - TheBlaze](#)

#bibleprophecy, #climatechange, #geoengineering, #stratosphere

Dec 27, 2022

A rogue solar geoengineering start-up claims to have begun using balloons to launch reflective clouds into the stratosphere for the purpose of changing the weather.

Although the initiative may be presently little more than a publicity stunt, Luke Iseman, cofounder and CEO of [Make Sunsets](#), told the MIT Technology Review that he hopes this provocative cloud-seeding effort will help launch what may be a lucrative "cooling" industry.

## **What are the details?**

According to Make Sunsets' website, "we need to start cooling the world immediately."

While Iseman condoned property destruction in a [blog entry](#) as one way to bring about this end, the method he has personally resolved to use is geoengineering, specifically by way of "albedo enhancement" or albedo modification (i.e., the reflection of sunlight).

David Keith's research group at Harvard University [defined](#) albedo modification as a solar geoengineering method designed to "reflect a small fraction of incoming sunlight back to space in order to attenuate anthropogenic changes in temperature and other climate variables."

Spraying sulfate aerosols and other reflective substances (e.g., calcium carbonate particles, aluminum dioxide, or diamonds) into the atmosphere, around 12-16 miles above the Earth, can allegedly accomplish what volcanic eruptions have otherwise achieved in the way of partially blocking sunlight and temporarily cooling global mean temperatures.

MIT Technology Review [reported](#) that Make Sunsets appears to have launched balloons containing reflective particulates from a site in Mexico.

The company's website claims the test flights deployed less than 10 grams of "clouds" each, suggesting that "one gram of sulfur delivered to 20km altitude creates as much radiative forcing as one ton of CO<sub>2</sub> released in the atmosphere does in a year."

Iseman claims that his artificial clouds, not composed of vapor but rather of fine particles, will remain in the sky anywhere from six months to three years, depending on the altitude and latitude at which they are released.

It is not clear where Make Sunsets' test balloons went or what effect they might have had, because Iseman did not equip them with monitoring apparatuses.

These experiments were potentially deleterious feats of "geoengineering activism" carried out "basically" to "confirm that [he] could do it."

While Iseman's team did not seek or acquire any approvals from government authorities ahead of the tests, the Biden administration recently expressed interest in developing technologies that could help partially block out the sun.

TheBlaze [previously reported](#) that President Joe Biden signed Congress' "Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022" on March 15, providing funding for a five-year research plan to be coordinated by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

The OTSP will come up with a "scientific assessment of solar and other rapid climate interventions in the context of near-term climate risks and hazards."

Stratospheric aerosol injection, the method employed by Make Sunsets, is among the various solar geoengineering interventions the OTSP will study.

While government agencies proceed with these studies, Iseman intends to continue with his tests "as quickly and safely as we can," convinced they are not "morally wrong."

### **The real dangers of fake clouds**

Like Iseman, Chris Sacca, founder of the climate tech investment fund Lowercarbon Capital, is convinced that "sunlight reflection has the potential to safeguard the livelihoods of billions of people."

Others in the field do not share their confidence.

Janos Pasztor, executive director of the Carnegie Climate Governance Initiative, told the MIT Technology Review, "The current state of science is not good enough ... to either reject, or to accept, let alone implement" these geoengineering efforts.

"To go ahead with implementation at this stage is a very bad idea," said Pasztor.

Noah Diffenbaugh, professor at Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability, [told](#) KNTV that this type of geoengineering is "a relatively cheap, relatively effective potential intervention at the global scale that's likely to have a lot of side effects."

A 2017 [study published](#) in Nature Communications indicated that while SAI might be used to produce "preferential local climate responses ... for the geoengineering parties, there could be potentially devastating impacts (eg, Sahelian drought) in other regions."

Dr. Anthony Jones, lead author on the study, [told](#) Carbon Brief, "If solar geoengineering were to be deployed solely in the northern hemisphere, then the resultant changes would reduce precipitation in the Sahel, and other regions such as India, and reduce the number of storms in the North Atlantic basin."

"To put it short, northern hemisphere solar geoengineering would be good for the southeast US, the Caribbean, and Mexico in terms of dissipating storms, but be very bad for the Sahel. In contrast, solar geoengineering in the south would enhance precipitation in the Sahel, but would also enhance the number of storms in the North Atlantic," added Jones.

Lili Fuhr of the Center for International Environmental Law suggested that SAI initiatives amount to a "gigantic gamble with the systems that sustain life on Earth. It could be weaponized, it could be misused – imagine if, say, India and Pakistan disagreed over one of them doing this."

A 2016 study published in the journal [Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics](#) suggested that "for stratospheric particle injection schemes, stratospheric ozone depletion would be a major concern ... especially in the near future."

The Guardian [reported](#) that 380 scientists signed an [open letter](#) demanding a global non-use agreement for solar radiation management, citing a number of the above concerns and others.

One of the chief concerns raised in the letter is that the "risks of solar geoengineering are poorly understood and can never be fully known. Impacts will vary across regions, and there are uncertainties about the effects on weather patterns, agriculture, and the provision of basic needs of food and water."

The scientists demanded that experiments like Iseman's be banned internationally.

### **Making a cool profit**

Although Make Sunsets' efforts down the road could possibly help generate cyclones, hurricanes, and droughts further afield, it might not be a total loss for Iseman and the two venture capital funds backing him. Iseman's company is already selling "cooling credits."

For \$10, Make Sunsets promises to "release at least 1 gram of our clouds into the stratosphere for you, offsetting the warming effect of 1 ton of carbon for one year."

This promise stands despite the founder's admission that there was no equipment on the balloons he launched to verify the efficacy of the tests. The company also noted on its site that "there's a lot of uncertainty and assumptions here" concerning its claims about offsets and utility.

Edward Parson, an expert in environmental law at the University of California Los Angeles, told the Guardian that Iseman's claim that his company could restore the world to its pre-industrial temperature norms is "absurd."