



SIGNS OF THE TIMES

News Articles for Episode 247

'If Israel is abandoned, Netanyahu will bomb Iran's nuclear facilities' | Israel National News - Arutz Sheva

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #iran, #nuclear

Jan 16, 2023

National Security Council head and long-time Netanyahu ally Tzachi Hanegbi says PM is prepared to bomb Iranian nuclear facilities.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is prepared to use military force to destroy Iran's nuclear facilities, the head of Israel's National Security Council said Monday.

Speaking with *Channel 12* during [the ceremony Monday](#) marking the transfer of control of the IDF from outgoing chief of staff Aviv Kochavi to his successor, Herzi Halevi, National Security Council chief Tzachi Hanegbi said that should Israel find itself isolated and without alternatives vis-à-vis Iran's nuclear program, Netanyahu would undoubtedly use force to prevent Tehran from realizing its atomic ambitions.

"If we are abandoned, Prime Minister Netanyahu will attack Iran's nuclear facilities."

Hanegbi, a long-time ally of Netanyahu who thrice served as minister in the prime minister's office and also served as acting prime minister in Netanyahu's stead, said Israel has been preparing for a scenario in which it must act alone against Iran.

"This is not a change, the previous government also said that it is preparing the defense forces...for a situation in which we are on our own."

"The central mission of the prime minister and his primary obligation is to ensure that Iran does not obtain nuclear weapons. The alternative to an attack is accepting a reality in which a radical regime has nuclear weapons. No Israeli leader can accept that."

Netanyahu himself hinted Monday at a possible military confrontation with Iran, saying that Israel "won't wait until the sword is on our neck, but we also won't be dragged into unnecessary wars."

[Russia to Supply Iran with Advanced Sukhoi-35 Fighter Jets as Early as This Spring | The Jewish Press - JewishPress.com | Abu Ali Express | 23 Tevet 5783 – January 15, 2023 | JewishPress.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #russia, #iran, #military

Jan 15, 2023

Shahriar Heidari, a member of the National Security Council in Iran, announced in a press interview today that Russia will [provide Iran with fourth-generation Sukhoi-35 fighter jets](#) as early as the Persian New Year (March 21). Additionally, Russia reportedly plans to also supply Iran with helicopters, tanks, and defense systems.

Military bloggers in Iran have noted that Russia originally intended to deliver these same aircraft to Egypt and wondered whether Russia will be capable of making the necessary changes and adjustments to the aircraft in such a short period of time to meet Iran's requirements.

Regardless, these fighter jets are seen as a major upgrade for the Iranian Air Force, as they are much more advanced than the existing 20th-century aircraft Iran possesses.

Iran hasn't acquired any new fighter aircraft in recent years, excluding a few Russian MiG-29 Fulcrum fighters it bought in the 1990s.

Some of the combat aircraft are anticipated to be housed at Tactical Air Base (TAB) 8 of the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force (IRIAF), which is located in the Iranian city of Isfahan in the country's center.

In US, 39% of adults believe humanity is ‘living in the end times’ | Pew Research Center

#bibleprophecy, #pewresearch, #endtimes

Dec 8, 2022

Periods of catastrophe and anxiety, such as the [coronavirus pandemic](#), have historically led some people to anticipate that the destruction of the world as we know it – the “end times” – is near. This thinking often has a [religious component](#) that draws on sacred scripture. In Christianity, for example, these beliefs include expectations that Jesus will return to Earth after or amid a time of great turmoil.

How we did this

This Pew Research Center analysis was conducted as [part of a wider study](#) that explores the relationship between Americans’ religious beliefs and their views about the environment. Questions about the end times were asked in order to help assess whether end-times beliefs were a factor in people’s responses about the environment. The questions analyzed here come from a survey of 10,156 U.S. adults that was conducted April 11-17, 2022. All respondents to the survey are part of Pew Research Center’s American Trends Panel (ATP), an online survey panel that is recruited through national random sampling of residential addresses. This way nearly all U.S. adults have a chance of selection. The survey is weighted to be representative of the U.S. adult population by gender, race, ethnicity, partisan affiliation, education, religious affiliation and other categories. For more, see the [ATP’s methodology](#).

Here are [the questions used](#) for this analysis, along with responses, and [its methodology](#).

In the United States, 39% of adults say they believe “we are living in the end times,” while 58% say they do *not* believe we are living in the end times, according to a [recent Pew Research Center survey](#).

Christians are divided on this question, with 47% saying we are living in the end times, including majorities in the historically Black (76%) and evangelical (63%) Protestant traditions. Meanwhile, 49% of Christians say we are *not* living in the end times, including 70% of Catholics and 65% of mainline Protestants who say this. Viewed more broadly, the share of Protestants who say we are living in the end times is greater than the corresponding share among Catholics (55% vs. 27%).

About three-in-ten or fewer people from non-Christian religions (29%) and those with no religious affiliation (23%) say we are living in the end times. (Jews, Muslims,

Buddhists, Hindus and other smaller non-Christian religious groups are included in the survey and represented in the “other religions” category, but there were [not enough respondents in these groups](#) to analyze separately.)

In addition, Black Americans (68%) are much more likely than Hispanic (41%), White (34%) and Asian (33%) Americans to believe humanity is living in the end times. And adults in Southern states (48%) are more likely to say this than those living in the Midwest (37%), Northeast (34%) or West (31%).

Americans without college degrees are more likely than college graduates to believe humanity is approaching its end, as are Americans with lower income levels when compared with those with higher incomes. And Republicans and Republican-leaning independents are more likely than Democrats and Democratic leaners to express this belief.

Pew Research Center asked Americans about the end times as part of a wider [survey about religion and the environment](#), partly to assess whether views about the end times are related to views on the environment.

Views about Jesus’ return to Earth

The survey also explored Americans’ views about a core tenet of Christianity: the belief that Jesus will eventually return to Earth, in what is often called the “second coming.”

When asked if Jesus “will return to Earth someday,” more than half of all U.S. adults (55%), including three-quarters of Christians, say this will happen. Protestants in the evangelical (92%) and historically Black (86%) traditions are more likely than other Christians to say there will eventually be a second coming of Jesus. Roughly four-in-ten Americans either do not believe Jesus will return to Earth (25%) or say they do not believe in Jesus (16%).

Respondents who said they believe Jesus will return to Earth were also asked how certain they are that this will happen *during their lifetime*. One-in-ten Americans say they believe the second coming of Jesus will definitely or probably occur during their lifetime, 27% are not sure if Jesus will return in their lifetime, and 19% say the return of Jesus will definitely or probably *not* occur during their lifetime.

The proportion of Americans who say they believe Jesus will definitely or probably return during their lifetime is higher among Protestants in the historically Black tradition (22%) and evangelical Protestants (21%), and lower among Catholics (7%) and mainline Protestants (6%). And the share of Black (19%) and Hispanic (14%) Americans who believe that the second coming of Jesus will likely occur during their lifetime is greater than the corresponding share of White, non-Hispanic Americans (8%).

That said, in all religious groups, people are more likely to express uncertainty over the timing of Jesus’ return than to express the sense that it will happen in their lifetime. For example, about seven-in-ten evangelicals say either that they are not sure Jesus will

return during their lifetime (50%) or that Jesus will definitely or probably *not* return during their lifetime (21%). And nearly two-thirds of those in the historically Black Protestant tradition say they are either unsure of the timing (47%) or that it will probably or definitely *not* happen during their lifetime (17%).

Additional views about end-times theology

The survey also asked about [other beliefs often associated with end-times theology](#): Whether Jesus will return after a *worsening* of global conditions leads to a low point for humanity (a view consistent with a theological belief known as “premillennialism”), or whether Jesus will return after an *improvement in* conditions leads to a high point of peace and prosperity (a view consistent with a belief called “postmillennialism”).

While each of these positions about the specific circumstances of Jesus’ return are held by a minority of U.S. adults, premillennial beliefs are more common than postmillennial beliefs (20% vs. 3%). An additional third of Americans say Jesus will return but that “it is impossible to know what will happen before Jesus returns.” And, as mentioned above, about four-in-ten U.S. adults do not believe Jesus will return to Earth or say they do not believe in Jesus.

Evangelicals are divided on questions about the circumstances of Jesus’ return, with 44% taking a premillennial stance and 45% saying that it is impossible to know the circumstances that will precede Jesus’ return. Fewer Catholics (15%) and Protestants in the historically Black (27%) and mainline (18%) traditions believe Jesus’ return will be preceded by a global deterioration. Instead, members of historically Black churches (51%), Catholics (44%) and mainline Protestants (41%) are more likely to say it is impossible to know what will happen before Jesus’ return.

[Premarket stocks: What we learned at Davos: The economy is a mess, but there's still hope | CNN Business](#)

#bibleprophecy, #wef, #davos

Jan 20, 2023

Friday marks the end of the annual [World Economic Forum meeting in Davos, Switzerland](#), an elite [gathering](#) of some of the wealthiest people and world leaders.

The [glitzy](#) retreat into the Swiss Alps looks increasingly out of date as the biggest war in Europe since 1945 deepens splits in the world economy. But that doesn't mean it's not important.

The meetings between CEOs, politicians, and global figures at Davos can help set the tone for the year ahead. Here are some of the key talking points from this week.

It's a mess: The big stories coming out of Davos this year are full of phrases like “fragmenting global economy,” “economic uncertainty” and “the year of inflation.”

While many executives and economists are now striking a more optimistic tone, global leaders are still fretting about the economic outlook. That's not surprising since they're contending with worrisome uncertainties — Russia's war in Ukraine is still [raging](#), inflation and interest rates [remain elevated](#), there are looming [energy](#) and [food crises](#), [supply chain kinks](#) and the [debt limit standoff](#) in the United States, not to mention the threat of [global recession](#).

The meeting began with a [new report by the WEF](#) that dubbed this decade the “turbulent 20s” and the “age of the polycrisis.” Business executives, politicians and academics, the report said, are bracing for a gloomy world battered by intersecting crises, as rising volatility and depleted resilience boost the odds of painful simultaneous shocks.

Gita Gopinath, the number two official at the International Monetary Fund, said in an interview with the [Wall Street Journal](#) that the IMF is worried globalization is in retreat. “We're very concerned about geoeconomic fragmentation,” she said. The issue had come up a lot in meetings with member countries at the conference, she added.

CEOs and political officials are also worried about the United States [hitting its borrowing cap](#) on Thursday, forcing the Treasury Department to start taking “extraordinary measures” to keep the government open.

If an agreement isn't reached, [markets could plunge](#) (like they did the last time this happened in 2011) and the United States risks having its credit rating downgraded again. The situation is a “mess,” said Peter Orszag, CEO of financial advisory at Lazard.

JP Morgan CEO Jamie Dimon told [CNBC from Davos](#) on Thursday that the reputation of the United States as creditworthy is “sacrosanct.” To even question it, he said, is the wrong thing to do. “That is just a part of the financial structure of the world. This is not something you should be playing games with at all.”

But it may not be *that* bad: Many leaders’ economic forecasts actually struck a semi-positive tone, even as they factored in strong headwinds.

So far, energy supplies have held up in Europe, and the US and China are engaging in diplomatic relations — Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and Chinese Vice Premier Liu He met in Zurich on Wednesday.

China’s [removal of strict coronavirus restrictions](#) late last year is also expected to unleash a wave of spending that may offset economic weakness in the United States and Europe.

Climate change was a hot topic: The rich and powerful do love to flock to Davos in their [carbon-emitting private jets](#) to discuss climate change. But this year, severe warnings were issued to global leaders.

The UN Secretary General [accused fossil fuel producers](#) and their financial backers of “racing to expand production, knowing full well that their business model is inconsistent with human survival.”

Speaking at Davos on Wednesday, António Guterres said the commitment to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels is “going up in smoke.”

“We are flirting with climate disaster. Every week brings a new climate horror story,” he said.

Swedish activist Greta Thunberg also [made her way to Switzerland](#) and delivered a “cease and desist letter” to fossil fuel CEOs — signed by more than 800,000 people.

The AI revolution is here: Some CEOs at Davos [admitted](#) that they’re using the revolutionary new AI bot, ChatGPT, to do their work for them, [reports my colleague Julia Horowitz](#).

Jeff Maggioncalda, the CEO of online learning provider Coursera, said that he uses the tool to bang out emails.

“I use it as a writing assistant and as a thought partner,” Maggioncalda told CNN from Davos.

Christian Lannig, CEO of digital supply chain platform Tradeshift, said he uses the ChatGPT to write emails and claims no one has noticed the difference. He even had it perform some accounting work, a service for which Tradeshift currently employs an expensive professional services firm.

“I see these technologies acting as a copilot, helping people do more with less,” Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella told an audience in Davos this week.

[Jordanian Control of the Temple Mount Will Destroy the 'Status Quo' \(israeltoday.co.il\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #jordan, #templemount, #control

Jan 16, 2023

Jordan is on a campaign to seize Jewish holy sites, including the Temple Mount and even the Western Wall.

Jordan is trying to establish its own Temple Mount 'status quo' that severs all Jewish connections to Judaism's holiest site. Photo: Jamal Awad/Flash90

(JNS) If the Biden administration supports the “status quo” on the Temple Mount, why is it speaking in positive terms about Jordanian authority over the site? Jordan wants to end the “status quo” that allows Jews to visit the Mount and even opposes Jewish prayer at the Western Wall.

For example, on April 15, 2022, Palestinian Arabs on the Mount [dropped stones on Jewish worshippers](#) at the Wall 50 feet below. Following the incident, Jordanian Prime Minister Bisher al-Khasawneh spoke to the Jordanian parliament. “I congratulate all Palestinians and all Jordanian Islamic Waqf workers who stand as tall as a turret and those who throw stones at pro-Zionists who defile the Al-Aqsa Mosque,” he said.

This was not the first such display in the Jordanian parliament. In March 2019, Jordanian MP Khalil Atiyeh stood up in parliament and saluted the 18-year-old terrorist who fatally stabbed 19-year-old IDF Sgt. Gal Keidan and [shot and killed](#) Rabbi Achiad Ettinger, a father of 12. In July 2017, the Jordanian parliament praised the terrorists who carried out a shooting attack at the Temple Mount that killed two Israeli police officers. In Nov. 2014, the Jordanian parliament held a moment of silence for two Palestinian terrorists who were killed after slaughtering five people in an attack inside a Har Nof synagogue.

Such statements are consistent with Jordan’s antisemitic actions regarding Jewish holy sites. Jordan led the efforts to force UNESCO’s World Heritage Committee to [reclassify the Western Wall as a Muslim site](#). The same move was attempted regarding the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron and Rachel’s Tomb near Bethlehem. This was consistent with Jordan’s treatment of the burial site of Moses’ brother Aaron, located near Petra. Jordanian law prohibits Jewish prayer at the site. Clearly, Jordan is leading a coordinated campaign to erase Jewish holy sites throughout the region.

Meanwhile, Jordan is still [providing a safe haven](#) to terrorist Ahlam Tamimi, who was involved in an Aug. 2001 suicide bombing at a Jerusalem restaurant that killed 15 people, including two US citizens. Tamimi was indicted and put on the FBI’s Ten Most

Wanted list, but Jordan has repeatedly refused US extradition requests. So far, it has suffered no negative repercussions as a result.

Despite Jordan's attempt to grab the Temple Mount and even the Western Wall for Islam, Muslims have themselves admitted that their claim to the Mount is based on a lie. In 1925, the Supreme Muslim Council [published a guide to the Temple Mount for tourists](#). It said the site's "identity with the site of Solomon's Temple is beyond dispute. This too is the spot, according to the universal belief, on which 'David built there an altar to the Lord, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings.'" Regarding Muslim rule over the Mount, which according to the guide began in 637 CE, the guide said, "In that year the Caliph Omar *occupied* Jerusalem" (emphasis added).

On Jan. 6, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke with Jordanian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi. According to a [statement](#) from the US embassy in Jordan, Blinken "underscored the importance of preserving the historic status quo at Jerusalem's Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount and expressed appreciation for the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's special role as custodian of Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem."

The historical record is clear. It proves that Jordanian involvement in the administration of the Temple Mount would destroy the status quo on the site and lead to further discrimination against Jews. It could affect Jewish prayer at the Western Wall as well. The Biden administration should adopt a policy that seeks to decrease the power of the antisemitic Jordanian government over the Temple Mount rather than empower it to continue its racist campaign against Jewish rights at their most sacred sites.

[Omicron subvariant XBB.1.5 possibly more likely to infect those who are vaccinated, officials say | Fox News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #covid, #omicron, #vaccinated

Jan 14, 2023

Health officials in NYC warned the subvariant could be more likely to infect those who have already had COVID-19

[New York City health officials](#) are warning residents that the infectious omicron subvariant XBB.1.5 may be more likely to infect people who have already been vaccinated or infected with COVID-19.

"Omicron subvariant XBB.1.5 now accounts for 73% of all sequenced COVID-19 cases in NYC," the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene tweeted on Friday. "XBB.1.5 is the most transmissible form of COVID-19 that we know of to date and may be more likely to infect people who have been vaccinated or already had COVID-19."

The department added that getting vaccinated against the virus, including receiving an updated booster shot, remains the best way to protect against hospitalization and death, including from new variants.

According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, XBB.1.5 accounts for 43% of cases in the U.S.

[COVID XBB.1.5 VARIANT NOW ACCOUNTS FOR 43% OF ALL US CASES, CDC SAYS](#)

In the first week of January, the subvariant accounted for about 30% of cases.

XBB.1.5, an offshoot of XBB, was first detected in October.

[The World Health Organization](#) warned earlier this week that it may lead to an increased number of cases based on genetic characteristics and early growth rate estimates.

[COVID OMICRON SUBVARIANT XBB: WHY THE NUMBER OF CASES IS LIKELY FAR GREATER THAN REPORTED](#)

Scientists have cautioned that the virus will surely keep evolving.

"Our concern is how transmissible it is," Maria Van Kerkhove, the WHO's technical lead on COVID-19, said.

"The more this virus circulates, the more chances it will have to change," she noted.

Van Kerkhove said there is no data yet to prove that [XBB.1.5 causes more severe disease](#), but that the agency is working on a new risk assessment of the variant that it expects to release soon.

[U.S. FDA, CDC see early signal of possible Pfizer bivalent COVID shot link to stroke | Reuters](#)

#bibleprophecy, #strokes, #pfizer, #vaccinated

Jan 14, 2023

Jan 13 (Reuters) - (This Jan. 13 story has been refiled with an edited headline to clarify that the link to a stroke is possible, not definite.)

A safety monitoring system flagged that U.S. drugmaker Pfizer Inc ([PFE.N](#)) and German partner BioNTech's updated COVID-19 shot could be linked to a type of brain stroke in older adults, according to preliminary data analyzed by U.S. health authorities.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [said](#) on Friday that a CDC vaccine database had uncovered a possible safety issue in which people 65 and older were more likely to have an ischemic stroke 21 days after receiving the Pfizer/BioNTech bivalent shot, compared with days 22-44.

An ischemic stroke, also known as brain ischemia, is caused by blockages in arteries that carry blood to the brain.

The FDA and CDC said that other large studies, the CDC's Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System, other countries' databases and Pfizer-BioNTech's databases had not flagged this safety issue, adding that it requires more investigation.

"Although the totality of the data currently suggests that it is very unlikely that the signal in VSD (Vaccine Safety Datalink) represents a true clinical risk, we believe it is important to share this information with the public," the health authorities said.

Pfizer and BioNTech said in a statement that they have been made aware of limited reports of ischemic strokes in people 65 and older following vaccination with their updated shot.

"Neither Pfizer and BioNTech nor the CDC or FDA have observed similar findings across numerous other monitoring systems in the U.S. and globally and there is no evidence to conclude that ischemic stroke is associated with the use of the companies' COVID-19 vaccines," the companies added.

This safety concern has not been identified with Moderna's ([MRNA.O](#)) bivalent shot and both the CDC and FDA continue to recommend that everyone aged 6 months and older stay up-to-date with their COVID-19 vaccination.

[20-year-old college tennis player dies in his sleep; no cause of death announced - TheBlaze](#)

#bibleprophecy, #death, #youth

Jan 15, 2023

Jack Madison — a 20-year-old member of the Colorado College men's tennis team — died in his sleep Jan. 2, the [Colorado College Tigers website reported](#). He was at home in Ohio at the time of his death, the college [said](#) in an alert.

The [Colorado Springs Gazette said](#) Madison's cause of death has not been announced.

Madison hailed from Bexley, Ohio, and was recruited to Colorado College from Columbus Academy where he was a four-year letter winner and team captain during his senior year, the college said. Madison was twice named a first-team all-state player and for three years was a first-team all-league player at Columbus Academy, the college added. He also was a state finalist during his sophomore and senior seasons at the Academy, the college said.

Columbus Academy boys tennis coach Marc Wurtzman [told the Columbus Dispatch](#) that Madison "always put a smile on your face. Everybody loved Jack. Players from other teams loved Jack. Jack will never be forgotten. He will be remembered by all his friends, family, and coaches, and everybody in the Academy community."

The Dispatch said Madison was in his sophomore year at Colorado College.

"We are devastated by the tragic passing of Jack Madison," Colorado College Vice President and Director of Athletics Lesley Irvine said, according to the Tigers website. "Jack was a treasured member of our men's tennis program and his loss will be profoundly felt throughout the athletics department and campus community."

Tigers head coach Anthony Weber said "the tennis program is deeply saddened by the news of Jack Madison's death. Jack was one of the most friendly and respectful student-athletes we have had in our program. We will miss his selflessness and positive influence. Our thoughts go out to his friends and family as they cope with this tragic news," the college reported.

Madison's family added that he was "fascinated by language and words; sound and music; and was crazy about art. He was a thoughtful writer, with his writing appearing in the Catalyst and the 'Sounds of Colorado College' blog, which he managed. Jack encouraged our community to reflect and think more deeply — not to mention to listen to new artists. He loved our CC community," the college's alert noted.

A week after Madison's death, an [Air Force Academy cadet suddenly died](#) after he collapsed while walking to class. The Air Force Academy is just north of Colorado Springs, and Colorado College is in Colorado Springs.

Officials have not yet determined a cause of death for 21-year-old Cadet 3rd Class Hunter Brown. He was a sophomore member of the Air Force Falcons football team for which he played on the offensive line and appeared in two games during the 2022 season.

Jewish Pop Star Finds Joy in Jesus - Israel Today

#bibleprophecy, #jew, #messiah, #christianity

Jan 11, 2023

Sixties sensation Helen Shapiro shares her journey from Jewish youth skeptical of Christians to follower of Yeshua (Jesus).

Sixties sensation Helen Shapiro became a devoted follower of Jesus. Photo: Youtube screenshot

Just as the 'swinging sixties' started to gain momentum, a Jewish teenager from the East End of London took the pop world by storm with a string of hits.

Her first – *Don't Treat Me Like a Child* – was appropriate enough as **Helen Shapiro** was only 14 at the time (1961) and it reached No 3 in the charts.

By early 1963 she was bigger than The Beatles – for a time. They actually accompanied her on a tour of the UK as her support act; she was the main attraction.

She recalls with affectionate nostalgia the banter she shared on the bus with John, Paul, George and Ringo. And it was during this tour, in February 1963, that *Please, Please Me* became the Fab Four's first No 1.

Helen also made No 1 around this time with her classic upbeat number *Walking Back to Happiness*, but says the lyrics of the song were not fulfilled until August 26 1987 – over twenty years later – when she found Jesus!

That was 28 years ago almost to the day, as she told an audience in South Elmsall, near Doncaster, Yorkshire, a few years back.

And for someone who associated Christians with persecutors of her people, it was quite an amazing turnaround.

She had been confused and upset when, as a child in the school playground, someone yelled at her: "You killed Jesus Christ!"

[This is a common misconception about Jews, especially among those untutored in the Scriptures, which make it clear that Christ had to die as the spotless Lamb of God paying for the sins of the world. He had offered himself of his own accord to be nailed to a cross.]

Helen duly developed her own system of beliefs after turning to mediums and spiritists, believing that God was involved in all those things. But then, soon after her 40th birthday, she no longer believed it and began questioning the very existence of God.

She was in the midst of this crisis when her musical director (who was unaware of it) gave her a book to read, *Betrayed* by Stan Telchin. It was about a respectable member of a Jewish community who was suddenly faced with a daughter announcing that she believed Jesus was the Messiah of Israel. He duly set out to prove her wrong and ended up becoming a believer himself!

Helen began studying the many prophecies of the promised Messiah in the Jewish Bible (what Christians refer to as the Old Testament) and was astonished at how accurately they seemed to be fulfilled in Jesus (Yeshua in Hebrew). These included references to a virgin birth in Bethlehem while the description of the suffering servant in Isaiah 53 was surely a picture of the crucifixion, despite having been written some 600 years earlier.

“Isaiah 53 was about how He took our sins... I was gobsmacked. And Daniel prophesied that the Messiah had to die before the temple was destroyed. It all seemed to point to Jesus.”

So now she ventured to read “the chunk on the end I’m not supposed to read. And taking my courage in both hands, I opened the New Testament.”

She wondered if she would discover “anti-Jewish poison” in view of the track record of the professing church, which had committed unspeakable crimes against her people. “No wonder we don’t come running towards this Jesus.”

She started at the beginning – Matthew’s gospel – and was surprised to find “the most Jewish thing outside the Old Testament” – the genealogy of Jesus which included a list of all the names from which Messiah must come.

“Did you know the New Testament is Jewish?” she asked the audience. “It was written by Jewish men about the most famous Jew of all, and they were living in the land of Israel according to the Law of Moses.

“Jesus rose up out of the pages to me and I fell in love with him. I was so taken with him. He looked at people’s hearts and saw all the rubbish and yet still loved them. Even in his agony he came out with gracious, comforting words. I saw that he was fulfilling one Messianic prophecy after another.”

Just to make sure the English translators hadn’t twisted anything to suit their purposes, she got hold of a Bible (the Tenach, or Old Testament to Christians) from a Jewish shop to check that it included the same Messianic prophecies.

“Blow me: there they were in all their glory. I was so relieved.”

Back to the New Testament, she read through the four gospels. “By the end of John I knew without a shadow of doubt that Jesus was the fulfilment of every Messianic prophecy; that he was the Jewish Messiah.”

She contacted her musical director and his wife, bombarded them with questions, realised that she had been deceived by her dabbling with the occult and, at 10.30pm on August 26 1987, gave her life to Jesus.

“There were no lightning flashes, but somewhere inside I knew that I knew, and that there was no turning back. The Creator and sustainer of the universe came to live in my life. I didn’t get religion. I got Jesus, and I love him.”

She had one further question and wrote to Stan Telchin, the author of the book that had started things off for her, asking: “Will I stop being Jewish by following Jesus?”

“Of course not,” he replied. “You will be fulfilling your Jewishness. He’s coming back as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah.”

Acknowledging that God still has a plan for the nation of Israel, Helen emphasised that both Jew and Gentile find salvation only through the blood of Jesus.

Though we are born physically, our spirits are dead because of man’s sin and rebellion against God. That’s why we need to be born again.

And God established the system of animal sacrifices to demonstrate that only through the shedding of the blood of an innocent substitute can a sinner be saved.

“They were pointers to the once-for-all sacrifice that Jesus became that day on the cross in Jerusalem when he shed his blood for the sins of the world. That’s why he came.”

Walking back to happiness is also the title of Helen’s autobiography, published by Harper Collins.