



SIGNS OF THE TIMES

News Articles for Episode 270

Only 217 Years Until the Messianic Age? - Israel Today

#bibleprophecy. #israel, #messianic age, #shabbat

Jul 9, 2023

The world as we know it ends no later than year 6,000 of the Jewish calendar. There's not much time left.

According to the Jewish calendar, we are currently in the year 5783 since the creation of the first man. That leaves us 217 years until the year 6000 when the Messianic age begins.

Jewish tradition compares the course of world history to the course of a week, and 1,000 years correspond to a day in this parallel, as Psalm 90 says:

“A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night.”

The week has six working days and one divinely-appointed day of rest. Accordingly, human history has 6,000 years of labor and 1,000 years of “Shabbat.” The Jewish sources only hint at what these 1,000 years will look like, but they correspond to the Shabbat, when no work is done, people find closeness to God and spend a peaceful, spiritual time.

The parallel goes even further, as anyone who has ever prepared for a Shabbat knows that the Friday just before the start of the Shabbat is the most stressful. One must make the final preparations, the meal must be ready, the children showered, the table set, so that one is free from all worldly activities when Shabbat begins.

Accordingly, we are working very hard today in the year 5783, for we are in the last few hours of “Friday.” There isn't much time left before we have to stop our work.

What is this work that must be completed in the next 217 years? It consists of the return of the Jewish people to God, the preparation of Israel for the [coming of the Messiah](#), the building of the [Third Temple](#). In short, Israel is to be “*a kingdom of priests and a holy people.*” (Exodus 19:6)

With the return of the Jews to their land, a great step was taken in this direction. We have gained most of our physical independence, although Israel remains under the close scrutiny of the other nations. It seems the UN, EU and America are having a hard time relinquishing their rule over the Jews and are constantly interfering in Israel's internal affairs. These international shackles still prevent Israel from becoming a true Jewish state.

But domestically, too, the country is still a long way from realizing its spiritual potential. The Bible and its divine commandments are [rejected](#) by large sectors of Israeli society, and the religious parties in government are doing little to change that.

In addition, the return of the Jews to the Promised Land is far from complete. There are still many Jews in the Diaspora who will have to return sooner or later – at least most of them. However, the rise of antisemitism worldwide, the [war in Ukraine](#) and economic factors are doing a good job of eliminating this problem.

The spiritual and physical independence of Israel still seems a long way off, but one can clearly see we are moving rapidly toward this outcome.

[A threat to Iran: IDF and US military team up for joint drill - Defense News - The Jerusalem Post \(jpost.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy. #israel, #iran, #military

Jul 10, 2023

The statement by the IDF did not specifically mention Iran by name, but mentioned situations where there would be conflict "at a distance."

The IDF and the US have started another joint drill which is a not-so-veiled threat against Iran, the military announced on Monday.

The statement by the IDF did not specifically mention the Islamic Republic by name, but mentioned training for situations where there would be conflict "at a distance" – an often-used code phrase for Iran, and noted use of the [KC-46 midair refueling aircraft](#).

Midair refueling is not necessary for the IDF to strike Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, or Syria, but would be necessary for any potential strike on Tehran.

In addition, the statement connected the current joint drill with the [Juniper Oak drill](#) in January, which was also clearly a message to the ayatollahs of what offensive power the US and Israel could jointly bring to bear in the event of a conflict or crossing the line with its nuclear program.

Last week, CENTCOM Air Force Chief Lt.-Gen. [Alexus Grynkewich told the Jerusalem Post](#) that participating in such joint drills was a clear way to message to Iran that the US could still employ significant force in the Middle East, despite drawdowns of troops in various areas.

Israel is due to receive four KC-46 aircraft from the US in 2025, sooner than the original 2026 delivery date.

Until then, if Israel wanted to potentially attack Iran's nuclear program and refuel, it would prefer assistance from the US's existing KC-46 aircraft.

Checking out Israel's new aircraft at the Paris Air Show

Last month, the *Post* visited a KC-46 aircraft at the [Paris Air Show](#) and interviewed a US KC-46 aircraft pilot who called it "a mobile gas tank" which could carry 207,000 pounds of fuel.

The statement also referenced achieving "air superiority and cyberdefense against a variety of threats."

In March and June, the IDF and the US engaged in smaller [joint Bomber Task Force mission](#) drills and Red Flag exercises.

In January, they cooperated in the Juniper Oak drills, which involve thousands of forces, a dozen ships, significant numbers of attack and intelligence collection drones and 142 aircraft, including nuclear-capable bombers.

Senators demand US administration reverse 'antisemitic Israel boycott' - JNS.org

#bibleprophecy, #america, #israel, #boycott

Jul 12, 2023

The Republican lawmakers called to rescind the "discriminatory" guidance halting scientific and technological cooperation with Israeli entities in Judea and Samaria.

A group of U.S. Republican senators sent a letter on Tuesday to Secretary of State Antony Blinken calling on the Biden administration to rescind its "discriminatory" guidance halting bilateral scientific and technological cooperation with Israeli entities operating in Judea and Samaria.

The administration late last month issued the [directive](#) applying to areas Israel captured in its defensive 1967 Six-Day War.

"The guidance does something America has never done before: unilaterally impose territorial restrictions on U.S. scientific research aid to Israel," wrote the senators in their letter. "Decades ago, the U.S. and Israel bilaterally agreed to such limits against the backdrop of unique regional conditions, but in 2020, both sides rescinded and rejected them as discriminatory."

The [letter](#) was spearheaded by U.S. Senator Tim Scott (R-S.C.), member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, along with cosigners Sens. Ted Cruz (R-Texas), Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), John Cornyn (R-Texas), Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), Rick Scott (R-Fla.), Bill Hagerty (R-Tenn.), Ted Budd (R-N.C.), Pete Ricketts (R-Neb.), Tom Cotton (R-Ark.), Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.), Mike Braun (R-Ind.), John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), Jim Risch (R-Idaho) and Roger Wicker (R-Miss.).

"The new guidance as written constitutes an antisemitic boycott of Israel," they wrote. "The American people and Congress broadly and deeply oppose boycott efforts against Israel, which have been repeatedly defined in U.S. law as efforts to limit [commerce] with persons doing business in any territories controlled by Israel..."

"This guidance in particular puts Americans' safety, security, and prosperity at risk because it politicizes and undermines cooperation on science and technology, including in areas such as defense and medicine where also our Israeli allies have proven themselves critical partners," the lawmakers added.

A U.S. State Department spokesperson told Israeli media that President Biden's decision was "simply reflective of the longstanding U.S. position that the ultimate disposition of the geographic areas is a final-status matter and that we are working towards a negotiated two-state solution."

The move reversed an initiative by the [Trump administration](#) to eliminate a U.S. policy prejudiced against Israeli control of Judea and Samaria.

In October 2020, the Trump administration signed bilateral agreements to further enhance the cooperation with Israel in the areas of science, industrial research and agriculture by removing “geographic restrictions” from previous accords.

In eliminating the restrictions, then-U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman said, “We are righting an old wrong. And strengthening yet again the unbreakable bond between our two countries. We are depoliticizing a process that should never have been political in the first place.”

[CDC gives guidance for trans people 'chestfeeding' kids, accused of failing to consider possible health risks | Fox News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #anti-semitism, #global

Jul 5, 2023

An entry for the official site claimed, 'Transgender and nonbinary-gendered individuals may give birth and breastfeed or feed at the chest (chestfeed)'

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's official website published advice for [trans and non-binary individuals](#) on seeking guidance on how to "chestfeed" their infants.

In sections of the major health institute's guidance on breastfeeding, it contained information for those who have had much of their breasts removed in gender-reassignment surgeries, or for biological men taking hormones to grow breasts, on how to feed their newborn children.

However, several doctors criticized the guidance, not simply because CDC has appeared to guide biological men in how to breastfeed children, but because they claimed the CDC has failed to gauge the risks posed to children drinking milk produced by chemicals used in gender-reassignment medical operations.

In the CDC website's section on "Health Equity Considerations" – found under its "Infant and Young Child Feeding Toolkit," the center declared that "Transgender and nonbinary-gendered individuals may give birth and breastfeed or [feed at the chest \(chestfeed\)](#)."

It also stated that "The gender identity or expression of transgender individuals is different from their sex at birth," and that, "the gender identity of nonbinary-gendered individuals does not fit neatly into either man or woman."

Under the CDC website's section on "Breast Feeding," specifically an entry covering breastfeeding for those who have undergone breast surgery, the institute mentioned "chestfeeding."

The CDC posed the question, "Can transgender parents who have had breast surgery breastfeed or chestfeed their infants?" It responded, "yes," followed by an explanation.

"Some transgender parents who have had breast/top surgery may wish to breastfeed, or chestfeed (a term used by some transgender and non-binary parents), their infants"

the CDC website states. "Healthcare providers working with these families should be familiar with medical, emotional, and social aspects of gender transitions to provide optimal family-centered care and meet the nutritional needs of the infant."

The post added that these transgender parents "may need help with" "maximizing milk production, supplementing with pasteurized donor human milk or formula, medication to induce lactation or avoiding medications that inhibit lactation, suppressing lactation (for those choosing not to breastfeed or chestfeed)" and "Finding appropriate lactation management support, peer support, and/or emotional support."

According to the Daily Mail, this advice may apply to biological men who can produce their own breastmilk by taking "[hormone drugs](#)" which mimic the changes that happen to a biological women's body during the late stage of pregnancy.

However, the outlet noted that the FDA's warning that one of these drugs, domperidone, "can pass into breast milk in small amounts and can sometimes give babies an irregular heartbeat as a result."

The outlet spoke to multiple doctors who criticized [the CDC](#) for not mentioning the health risks posed to infants "chest feeding" from biological men transitioning with female-mimicking hormones.

Executive director of the conservative Association of American Physicians and Surgeons, Dr. Jane Orient [told The Daily Mail](#), "The CDC has a responsibility to talk about the health risks, but they have been derelict in doing that."

She also claimed "we have no idea what the long-term effects on the child will be" if trans parents are using "all kinds of off-label hormones," meaning drugs that are being used in a different purpose than for which they were intended.

Dr. Stuart Fischer, a New York-based internal medicine physician, told the Daily Mail that it is "very hard to believe" that the breast milk naturally-occurring in a biological female is the same as the breast milk induced in a biological man.

He is also noted it is uncertain how the latter form of breast milk would affect infants, asking, "If it's been tested a handful of times, how would we know the long-range effect? The short-term is one thing, but the long-term in terms of physical and mental illness..."

"It's an emerging field, to put it mildly," Fischer added.

The CDC didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Exodus II - Israel Today

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #anti-semitism, #global

Jul 7, 2023

The future of the Jewish people in Europe – and even in America – is at great risk, with many leaving for Israel or being advised to do so.

Much of the shocking rise in worldwide antisemitism that is behind this mass exodus has been witnessed by **Dr Fred Wright**, a British historian and theologian who has been working to facilitate Aliyah (returning to their ancient land) for persecuted Jews around the globe ever since the days of the former Soviet Union. He is currently serving as Director of Communications for Ezra UK.

In conversation with me, Fred outlines the dire situation facing Jewish communities for whom he has a heart of love and concern that he hopes will be replicated by more Christians, as the Bible commands us to do.

“The Jewish people have the distinction of being the most opposed and vilified group in history from the time of written record,” he said. “Esteemed historian Robert Wistrich labelled it as the *World’s Longest Hatred*. Any discussion of the Jewish people, their relationship with God and the land will always be overshadowed by the evil spirit of antisemitism and of tropes of Jews as being clannish, conspiratorial and holders of world power in the realms of media, politics, and the economy.

“Anti-Defamation League research shows that classic antisemitism is emerging again in American society, where there are around six million Jews. The question arises as to what their future is both within and without the USA, especially in view of rising Muslim antisemitism with Jewish leaders previously indifferent to Aliyah now encouraging their followers to leave.

“Antisemitism is rife at the much-lauded Harvard University where students have endorsed the anti-Israel Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement. And a shocking incident in Las Vegas saw a swastika carved into the back of a 17-year-old autistic schoolboy.

“In Europe, meanwhile, we are witnessing the beginning of the end of Jewish history there, in the words of former Soviet refusenik Natan Sharansky. The Berlin-based correspondent of Israel’s largest newspaper, *Israel Hayom*, revealed that the Jewish population in Europe has decreased by 60 percent in the last 50 years. And Wistrich said of European Jewry: ‘It’s over; it’s a slow death.’ In short, there is no future for the Jews of Europe.

“Russian and Ukrainian rabbis have called on all Jews to leave the war-torn countries before they are made scapegoats for the hardship caused by the conflict. Step by step the iron curtain is coming down again. And we at Ezra have helped over 16,500 Jewish people make Aliyah in the first year of the war, with many more in process.

“Samuel Hayek, a UK resident for over 40 years, chairman of the Jewish National Fund and a renowned philanthropist, has also sadly remarked that Jews have no future in Britain, where 1,652 anti-Jewish hate incidents were recorded nationwide in 2022. He noted that Britain’s Muslim population could triple in the next 20 years, adding: ‘I’m not against any minority or against Muslims in the UK or in Europe, but against anyone who spreads hatred.’

“Another spokesman, Mehdi Hasan, has pointed out that ‘anti-Semitism isn’t just tolerated in some sections of the British Muslim community; it’s routine and commonplace’.

“Holland’s Jewish community have been advised to emigrate to avoid increasing harassment by young Muslim fanatics. Chief Rabbi Binyomin Jacobs said he and his wife would leave if not for their responsibility for those still there. ‘I’m like the captain of a sinking ship,’ he declared. And Dutch novelist Leon de Winter predicted that when Israel celebrates her centenary in 2048, the last Jew will leave Europe.

“France, the scene of much chaotic rebellion in recent days, has a shadowy history of antisemitism that peaked with the notorious case of injustice against a Jewish army officer witnessed by journalist Theodor Herzl who thus concluded there was no future for Jews in Europe. He duly launched the Zionist movement that sparked ongoing Aliyah to Israel. Some academics consider that Nazi ideology could just as easily have developed in France as in Germany. And the situation now appears worse than ever, exacerbated by Islamic-led elements, with Jewish educational establishments located on first floors with bomb-proof doors and security guards outside.

“In the past few years there has been an ever-increasing number of Jews leaving major cities. Grenoble has seen half the Jewish community flee and Nice has witnessed a drop from 20,000 to 5,000. In Toulouse, where much of the Jewish community arrived from North Africa in the 1960s and 70s following Islamic expulsions, they have felt constrained to move once again – no less than 50% of them. ‘In a few decades there will be no Jews in France,’ one Jewish leader said.

“Jews in Belgium also suffer great hostility, with the Chief Rabbi of Brussels, Albert Guigui, no longer wearing a kippa in public for fear of violence and Israeli journalist Eldad Beck reporting that ‘there is a good chance, in twenty years, of ending up with a *jüdenrein* Belgium.’

“Antisemitic incidents are also rife in Germany – an average of five a day in the first ten months of 2022 – less than 80 years after the Holocaust shocked the world. A particularly low point saw Palestinian Authority president Mahmoud Abbas, at a press conference in Munich last year, outrageously accuse Israel of having perpetrated ‘50 Holocausts’ against the Palestinians! Semen Gorelik, Jewish community chairman in the state of Brandenburg, has announced that he is leaving Germany for Israel and urged German Jews to follow suit due to the rising tide of antisemitism there.

“A similar situation exists in Austria, where the Jewish community president of Vienna said: ‘The challenge of rising antisemitism is a global phenomenon and we are working closely with all strands of society to combat it.’

“Sweden, once a paragon of tolerance, now has the third highest rate of antisemitic incidents in Europe, once again mostly due to Islamic tensions, with the number of Jews in the city of Malmö plummeting from 3,000 to 600 in just a few short years.

“Meanwhile neighbouring Norway risks becoming one of the first countries without a Jewish presence. Due to Islamic tensions, the synagogues of Oslo and Trondheim are the most securely protected buildings in the country and Aliyah has found a renewed focus. The picture is similar in Denmark while in Spain, four decades after the demise of General Franco’s dictatorship, opinion polls continue to reveal deeply-rooted antisemitic clichés.

“And whereas Italians generally are not antisemitic by conviction, there is a residual suspicion of Jews because of the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church. And even in Greece, despite its relatively small Jewish community, antisemitism is an ongoing concern.”

But when all is said and done, all this terrible upheaval is paving the way for the greatest miracle since the crossing of the Red Sea 3,500 years ago. For the Lord spoke to the prophet Jeremiah that a day would come *“when it will no longer be said, ‘As surely as the Lord lives, who brought the Israelites up out of Egypt,’ but it will be said, ‘As surely as the Lord lives, who brought the Israelites up out of the land of the north and out of all the countries where he had banished them.’ For I will restore them to the land I gave their ancestors.”*(Jeremiah 16:14f)

[Florida ocean temperatures at ‘downright shocking’ levels \(msn.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #florida, #temperatures, #water

Jul 10, 2023

Not only is Florida sizzling in [record-crushing heat](#), but the ocean waters that surround it are scorching, as well. The unprecedented ocean warmth around the state — connected to [historically warm oceans worldwide](#) — is further intensifying its heat wave and stressing coral reefs, with conditions that could end up strengthening hurricanes.

[Live weather updates: Extreme heat waves to hit Florida, Texas and Southwest](#)

Much of Florida is seeing its warmest year on record, with temperatures running 3 to 5 degrees above normal. While some locations have been setting records since the beginning of the year, the hottest weather has come with an intense heat dome cooking the Sunshine State in recent weeks. That heat dome has made coastal waters extremely warm, including “[downright shocking](#)” temperatures of 92 to 96 degrees in the Florida Keys, meteorologist and journalist Bob Henson said Sunday in a tweet.

“That’s boiling for them! More typically it would be in the upper 80s,” [tweeted Jeff Berardelli](#), chief meteorologist and climate specialist at WFLA-TV in Tampa.

[off the scale of the color contours on some weather maps.](#)

The warmth registers as a Category 3 out of 5 on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s [marine heat wave scale](#). NOAA defines a marine heat wave as a period with persistent and unusually warm ocean temperatures, “which can have significant impacts on marine life as well as coastal communities and economies.” The agency describes Category 3 as “severe.”

Such warm water temperatures “would be impressive any time of year, but they’re occurring when the water would already be rather warm, bringing it up to bona fide bathtub conditions that we rarely see,” Brian McNoldy, senior research associate at the University of Miami and hurricane expert for Capital Weather Gang, said in an email.

The toasty waters are influencing temperatures on land by raising the humidity, which makes it harder for temperatures to cool off at night. Numerous records for temperatures and heat indexes have been broken since mid-June, and the heat wave is expected to continue for at least a week. [According to McNoldy](#), Miami’s heat index soared to 110 degrees on Monday and has reached at least 100 on 30 straight days.

Miami, Tampa and Fort Myers are expected to hit a heat index of 105 or higher on each of the next seven days, according to the [The Washington Post’s heat tracker](#).

“It’s an astounding, prolonged heat wave even for a place that’s no stranger to sultry weather,” said McNoldy, who also cautioned that the warm waters could make tropical

storms or hurricanes stronger. “It’s not something we like to see near land simply because it would allow a storm to maintain a high intensity right up to landfall or rapidly intensify as it approaches landfall.”

Hurricane forecasters have recently [upped their](#) predictions for the season in response to the rising ocean temperatures.

The marine heat wave is also causing coral bleaching, which can leave corals vulnerable to deadly diseases. NOAA’s [Coral Reef Watch](#) has recorded an “Alert Level 1” off the coast of South Florida. That is the second-highest level, described by NOAA as “significant bleaching likely.”

Berardelli credited unusually light winds since late May, in addition to the heat dome, as contributing to the warming sea surface: “Typically Florida sees a nice breeze from the [southeast] but this summer pattern has been resilient,” he [tweeted](#). “The water is warming under this stagnation!” Light winds can lead to stagnant waters, which prevent deeper, colder water from churning to the top, allowing the ocean surface to heat more quickly.

The hot waters around Florida are connected to record-breaking ocean heat worldwide. About 40 percent of the world’s oceans are facing a marine heat wave, NOAA [reported](#). That is the highest percentage on record, and it could reach 50 percent by September.

Scientists also attribute the widespread heat of the global ocean waters to human-caused climate change, which has helped boost the oceans to record-warm levels.

[‘Snorting kits’ for drug users to be distributed in Portland despite Dem opposition: ‘Reckless’ | Fox News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #portlane, #fentanyl, #drug users

Jul 10, 2023

County says the plan adjusts for alternative methods of fentanyl use beyond injection

"Snorting kits" for drug users will soon be distributed in Portland, Oregon, and its surrounding county as part of a harm reduction plan that even the city's Democratic mayor opposes.

The Multnomah County Health Department announced the plan Friday and said it will expand available drug paraphernalia for users to adjust for alternative methods of fentanyl use beyond injection. This will include tin foil, straws and "snorting kits."

[PORTLAND RESIDENT ANGELA TODD RIPS CITY'S 'INHUMANE' PLAN TO GIVE TIN FOIL, STRAWS TO ADDICTS](#)

Democratic Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler announced his opposition to the county's plan, which he said encourages drug use.

"I adamantly oppose distributing paraphernalia to encourage [using a drug](#) that is the leading cause of death for Americans under 50 and responsible for 190 fatal overdoses a day in the US," Wheeler tweeted Friday.

Portland City Commissioner Rene Gonzalez, another Democrat, also criticized the plan.

"Multnomah County handing out tin foil sends a horrific message in a community that is working hard to restore livability, public safety, and its reputation. Heavy drug use is killing too many, driving crime, deeply damaging livability and devastating our 911 system," she said in a statement. "Thoughtful harm reduction may have a place in addressing substance use disorder, but handing out tinfoil/straws in a community ravaged by fentanyl is reckless."

[PSYCHEDELIC CITY: MAGIC MUSHROOMS GROW IN THERAPY USE BUT SOME AT-HOME USERS MAY FACE 'PSYCHEDELIC TRAUMA'](#)

Drug overdoses in the U.S. hit more than 100,000 in 2022, the first time in history it hit six figures. The overdoses spiked amid the COVID-19 pandemic, going from 71,000 in 2019 to more than 90,000 in 2020.

"Snorting kits" have been distributed in different cities by harm reduction groups in recent years. The kits often include a straw, plastic razor and flat surface to assist drug

use [through the nostril](#). Harm reduction groups say the kits reduce bacteria exposure from reusing paraphernalia and encourage users to stop injecting.

SOCIAL JUSTICE WARRIORS DRIVING A REVOLUTION OF PERMISSIVE DRUG CULTURE, 'NO RULES,' COUNSELOR SAYS

Needle exchange programs, which provide clean syringes for [drug users](#), remain largely popular and operate in 38 states, according to the American Civil Liberties Union. However, harm reduction efforts beyond syringes have sparked backlash.

The Department of Health and Human Services announced last year that its first ever federal harm reduction grant program would fund "smoking kits" but would ensure they do not include pipes used to smoke drugs.

[Nondenominational Churches Are Growing and Multip... | Christianity Today](#)

#bibleprophecy, #churches, #nondenominational, washingtondc

Jun 12, 2023

The District Church could be a Baptist church. The lead pastor, after all, grew up as a Southern Baptist missionary kid and still has a lot of ties to that denomination.

It could also be Anglican, with the way it leans into liturgy and the church calendar. Or a social justice church, with its focus on the inequality so visible in Washington, DC, or charismatic, with its emphasis on prayer and sensitivity to the Spirit.

Instead, the church is a little bit of all these things. It is nondenominational, pulling together different Christian streams to minister effectively to the young white professionals who have moved to work in the capital, as well as the upwardly mobile Nigerians and South Koreans who've emigrated to the seat of the United States government.

“The strength of being nondenominational is there are fewer barriers,” said Aaron Graham, who planted the church with his wife, Amy, 13 years ago. “It allows you to lead with a brand that is more city-focused and seeker-focused. We respond to the questions people are asking. ‘Do you believe in God? Do you believe in the Bible? Do you believe God is at work in the world today?’”

Nondenominational churches like The District Church have been [multiplying](#) across America, [according](#) to the 2020 US Religion Census. Their numbers today dwarf the mainline churches that once dominated American public life. There are six times more nondenominational churches than there are Episcopal congregations, and five times more than Presbyterian Church (USA). If *nondenominational* were a denomination, it would even be larger than the Southern Baptist Convention, the largest denomination in the US.

The popular image of these churches skews suburban. People picture warehouses turned into worship spaces near Starbucks, Panera Bread, and Home Depot. But a lot of nondenominational churches are in cities, too. There are more than 300 in Seattle, according to Scott Thumma, the Hartford International University researcher who led the team counting independent congregations for the church census. There are 537 in Phoenix and 797 in Atlanta.

But the most surprising growth of nondenominational churches may be in the nation's capital. The city sometimes dismissed as a “swamp” has proved, in recent years, to be fertile ground for nondenominational church growth.

Between 2010 and 2020, the number of these independent congregations in DC more than doubled, from 61 to 145. And the estimated number of people attending them

rapidly outpaced DC population growth. By 2020, more than 60,000 District residents were finding their way to nondenominational pews and those plush, stackable church chairs on any given Sunday.

Article continues below

“There was a stretch there where I felt like I heard about a new church plant starting up in the neighborhood of another church plant almost every month,” said Bill Riedel, who moved from Chicago to DC to launch Redemption Hill Church in 2010.

Not all of the new churches in DC are nondenominational, of course. Redemption Hill, for example, is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America and Acts 29. Affiliation often comes with much-needed support. But in a place like DC, it can also create obstacles to outreach.

“Most of my neighbors have never talked to a pastor before,” Riedel said. “The first thing they say is ‘What denomination are you?’ ”

If the answer is “We’re nondenominational,” church planters can skip some esoteric history that goes down a rabbit hole explaining old divisions and ecclesiological differences. The nondenominational pastor can just start talking about the kind of church they want their church to be and how they hope it will serve the city.

Clearly explaining a vision for the city became especially critical after a mob disrupted the certification of the 2020 presidential election. Some of the insurrectionists waved signs that [said](#), “Jesus saves,” and others stopped to pray and [invoke](#) the name of Jesus. For many in the city, that became their image of *white evangelical*.

Evangelical pastors in DC had to explain how they were different. It was easier if they could emphasize their independence and autonomy.

But even setting aside the trauma of January 6, 2021, independence has been critical to outreach in the capital. Conservative nondenominational churches search for ways to bring together people who work in and against each administration. They respond to current events with prayer, apply the Scriptures to the world around them, and teach that the gospel is political, but not partisan.

Progressive nondenominational churches do this too.

“People are burned out on partisanship a lot of times,” said Tonetta Landis-Aina, pastor at The Table Church. “People are like, ‘I work on the Hill all day, I don’t want to talk about all that stuff.’ But we say we are political at our church. We are not partisan.”

Article continues below

Eschewing church affiliations also feels more honest to a lot of people, Landis-Aina said. She describes herself, for example, as a “barefoot Baptist” from North Carolina, influenced by both Black and white churches, with a theology centered on the belief that “God has always been like Jesus.” She studied at a Wesleyan seminary; was

inspired to rethink church life in the emergent movement; and today reads Eastern Orthodox theology, Jesuit spirituality, and work on decolonization.

“We’re nondenominational, so we have a lot of freedom,” she said. “Freedom to be open and affirming and name theological diversity as accepted and allowed. One of the beauties of nondenominational space, for me, is we’re living out what’s already happening, you know? Look at people’s journeys.”

The Table reaches people in the nation’s capital who want a deep but simple faith that is nevertheless not just one thing.

Across the city, nondenominational churches like The Table and The District Church are pragmatic and missional. Not that nondenominationalism is always the strategic choice.

For example, Devin Turner, who planted the predominantly African American Revolution Church in 2013, considered joining a denomination or network when he started. He had no idea where he would get financial support, so affiliation with someone seemed like a good idea. He was assessed and approved by a church-planting group.

But he didn’t feel peace. He prayed and fasted until it became clear to him God was leading him to be nondenominational.

“I don’t think people care about the name on the building,” Turner said. “People care if you love them. ‘Do you respect me?’ ‘Do you see me as a person?’ That wasn’t the reason, though. I don’t know why God told me not to.”

Nondenominational churches in DC are not focused on being nondenominational. They could be Baptist. They could be charismatic. They could be in some other Christian stream. To them it doesn’t matter. They will borrow and adapt anything that helps them proclaim the Good News and make disciples in the nation’s capital.

“Our main thing is to reconcile people to Christ,” said Graham at The District Church. “If it isn’t helping lead people to Christ and reconcile with one another, we’re not interested.”

[Most Americans Raised by Christian Moms Are Still Christians Today: Poll - Michael Foust \(christianheadlines.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #children, #moms, #christian

May 11, 2023

The large majority of children who grow up with a Christian mom remain Christian as adults, according to new research from the American Bible Society that also shows faith has more "staying" power among kids than atheism.

The research, part of the society's "[State of the Bible](#)" report, found that 73 percent of children who grew up Protestant remained either Protestant or "other Christian" as adults. Four percent are now Catholic, while 19 percent say they identify as an atheist/agnostic or "none."

Among children who grew up Catholic, 57 percent remained Catholic as an adult, while 6 percent are now Protestant and 14 percent are "other Christian." One-fifth (21 percent) now identify as atheist/agnostic or "none."

"A well-known proverb offers this expectation: 'Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it' ([Proverbs 22:6](#)). This verse has challenged and comforted many Christian mothers and fathers through the years," the report said.

The new data on moms "bears out" the verse, the report said.

Meanwhile, one-third (32 percent) of adults who grew up atheist/agnostic/none say they are now Christian. This movement is larger than the movement out of the faith camps: One-fifth of adults who grew up Protestant or Catholic now identify as atheist/agnostic/none.

"Christian history is well-populated with faithful mothers," the report said. "The Bible tells of Timothy's faith being influenced by his mother, Eunice, and his grandmother, Lois. Bishop Augustine recognized the powerful prayers of his mother, Monica. Reformers John and Charles Wesley were grateful for the guidance of their mother, Susanna. These are just a few of the more prominent examples. Millions more stories could be told, even today."

The survey was based on interviews with 2,761 Americans in January.