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News Articles for Episode 393

Hamas Rejects Trump Peace Plan, Vows to Keep Weapons and Continue War Against Israel | Israel365news.com

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #hamas, #war, #peace plan

Dec 7, 2025

Speaking from the safety of Istanbul and Doha, the terrorists made clear they have no intention of honoring the commitments they made when they agreed to the ceasefire deal last month.

The ink on President Trump's Gaza peace plan had barely dried when Hamas terrorist leaders delivered their response: a flat rejection of disarmament, a promise to continue the war against Israel, and a vow to prevent any international oversight of the Gaza Strip. Speaking from the safety of Istanbul and Doha, the terrorists made clear they have no intention of honoring the commitments they made when they agreed to the ceasefire deal last month. Hamas has proven itself to be precisely this kind of adversary—agreeing to terms only to buy time, recover strength, and prepare for the next assault.

Khaled Mashaal, Hamas's political leader operating from exile, addressed a pro-Palestinian conference in Istanbul on Saturday with a message that stripped away any pretense of compliance. "The time has come for the *ummah* [the Islamic nation] to commit to the liberation of Jerusalem as the banner and symbol of freeing Palestine; to cleansing the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque [Temple Mount]; and to reclaiming Islamic and Christian holy sites," the terrorist declared. His message was not one of reconciliation but of renewed conquest.

Mashaal rejected the central requirement of Trump's peace plan—Hamas disarmament. "Protecting the resistance project and its weapons is the right of our people to defend themselves," he stated. "The resistance and its weapons are the *ummah's* honor and pride. A thousand statements are not worth a single projectile of iron."

The terrorist leader also dismissed the International Stabilization Force and Board of Peace that the United Nations Security Council authorized on November 17 to serve as the transitional government authority for Gaza. "All forms of guardianship, mandate and re-occupation of the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and all of Palestine" are rejected, Mashaal announced. "The Palestinian is the one who governs himself and decides for himself."

Israel's Foreign Ministry responded sharply, stating that Hamas was "making a mockery of President Trump's peace plan" and that Mashaal's remarks were in "direct contradiction of the core terms of the peace plan itself."

Hamas is making a mockery of President Trump's peace plan.

In a public address today in Istanbul, Hamas leader Khaled Mashal declared that Hamas has no intention of disarming, giving up its weapons, its rule, or its path

He also rejected any form of external oversight in Gaza -... pic.twitter.com/a6H7PtsvSv

— Israel Foreign Ministry (@IsraelMFA) [December 6, 2025](#)

Khalil al-Hayya, a member of Hamas's top leadership in Gaza, reinforced Mashaal's position in a Saturday interview. He told American envoys Steven Witkoff and Jared Kushner that Hamas would accept only border-monitoring forces, not any presence empowered to operate inside Gaza or dismantle the terror group's arsenal. Al-Hayya claimed Hamas would surrender its weapons only "if the occupation ends"—a reference not to any particular territory but to Israel's existence itself.

His office later clarified to Agence France-Presse that surrendering weapons "under the authority of the state" meant only a "sovereign and independent Palestinian state"—code for a terror state that would replace Israel.

Under the ceasefire agreement that went into effect last month, Hamas committed to returning the bodies of 28 hostages it was holding by October 13. The terror group slow-walked compliance, delaying the disarmament process scheduled for the second phase of the deal. Trump's plan explicitly states that Hamas and other terrorists "agree to not have any role in the governance of Gaza, directly, indirectly, or in any form," and that "all military, terror, and offensive infrastructure, including tunnels and weapon production facilities, will be destroyed and not rebuilt."

Hamas is now making clear it will honor none of these commitments.

Israel faces mounting pressure from American mediators to move forward with the second phase despite Hamas's defiance. Israeli officials warn that if Washington proceeds without the return of Sergeant First Class Ran Gvili—a police commando abducted on October 7 whose body Hamas has failed to locate—the terrorists will have no incentive to comply with future demands. A senior Israeli official expressed concern that Trump may announce a transition to the next phase regardless of whether Hamas meets its obligations.

Mashaal also outlined Hamas's broader agenda: preventing Jewish presence in Judea and Samaria; freeing imprisoned terrorists from Israeli jails; building Arab unity against Israel; "pursuing" Israeli leaders globally; and promoting anti-Israel sentiment on campus, in media, and in politics. He boasted that "two years of war have passed,

and all the weapons that came to the Zionist entity from all corners of the world have failed to impose their will on our people.”

The Hamas rejection exposes the fundamental flaw in treating Islamic terror organizations as legitimate negotiating partners. They view agreements not as binding commitments but as tactical pauses—opportunities to regroup, rearm, and resume attacks when the strategic moment arrives. Their openly stated goal remains the destruction of Israel and the establishment of Islamic rule from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea.

Trump’s peace plan, backed by UN Security Council Resolution, envisioned an International Stabilization Force responsible for demilitarizing Gaza, including “the destruction and prevention of rebuilding of the military, terror, and offensive infrastructure, as well as the permanent decommissioning of weapons from non-state armed groups.” Hamas has now declared this vision dead on arrival. The terrorists have calculated that international pressure on Israel will eventually force concessions without requiring Hamas to give up anything of substance.

The Hamas charter provides unambiguous statements about the organization’s commitment to violence and rejection of negotiations. The original charter declares that peace initiatives, peaceful solutions, and international conferences are “contrary to the beliefs of the Islamic Resistance Movement.” Article 13 of the charter explicitly states this position, dismissing any diplomatic path to resolving the conflict.

Article 15 declares that *jihad* becomes “the individual duty of every Moslem” in response to what Hamas terms Jewish “usurpation” of Muslim land. The charter frames the conflict as a religious obligation requiring armed struggle.

The charter states flatly: “There is no solution for the Palestinian question except through Jihad.” This leaves no room for compromise or negotiation. Violence is presented as the only legitimate path.

The charter’s worldview “brings in its wake the refusal to recognize the State of Israel’s right to exist as an independent, sovereign nation, the waging of a ceaseless jihad against it and total opposition to any agreement or arrangement that would recognize its right to exist.”

The charter also claims all of Israel as Islamic *waqf*—a religious endowment that belongs permanently to all Muslims until Judgment Day. According to the charter, the land remains endowed as *waqf* for all generations of Muslims until the Day of Resurrection, and any violation of this Islamic law regarding the land is baseless. This theological claim means Hamas views any recognition of Israel or any peace agreement as a violation of Islamic law.

Hamas issued a revised document in 2017 that some observers hoped would signal moderation. It did not. While accepting a Palestinian state within 1967 borders as a

possible interim step, the document simultaneously strives for “complete liberation of Palestine, from the river to the sea” and does not recognize Israel.

Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal stated explicitly in 2012: “The state will come from resistance, not negotiation. Liberation first, then statehood.” He added that Hamas would never recognize the legitimacy of Israeli presence in any part of the land.

The bottom line: Hamas has never abandoned its core ideology that Israel must be destroyed and that violence is the exclusive means to achieve this goal. Any tactical adjustments in language are designed to make the organization more palatable to international audiences while preserving its commitment to armed struggle. The current rejection of Trump’s peace plan is entirely consistent with Hamas’s charter and its consistent behavior over more than three decades.

Israel now faces a choice: accept Hamas’s mockery of the peace process and watch the terror group rebuild its capabilities under the cover of a fraudulent ceasefire, or insist that agreements have meaning and that terror groups must face consequences when they violate their commitments. The answer will determine not only Gaza’s future but also whether diplomatic agreements with Islamic terror organizations have any value at all.

Pope Leo cautions Trump on fracturing U.S.-Europe alliance | Axios.com

#bibleprophecy, #pope, #trump, #europe, #united states

Dec 11, 2025

The Chicago-born pontiff has not shied away from criticizing the Trump administration.

- He has called for a just and lasting peace between Russia and Ukraine, and did so again in his Tuesday [meeting](#) with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, per the Vatican's press office.

Driving the news: Asked if he believed the U.S.-proposed peace plan to settle the Russia-Ukraine war was fair, the pope told reporters that what he had seen "unfortunately" marked "a huge change in what was for many, many years a true alliance between Europe and the United States."

- Leo cited recent remarks made about Europe, presumably including the president's recent assessment of U.S. allies as "decaying," that he said are "trying to break apart what I think needs to be a very important alliance today and in the future."
- He added, "It has a number of things in it that I think while perhaps many people in the United States would be in agreement, I think many others would see things in a different way."

Catch up quick: In a wide-ranging interview with Politico's Dasha Burns, the president argued many European countries would "not be viable countries any longer," blaming immigration.

- His comments aligned with his administration's [new national security strategy](#), dubbed the "'Trump Corollary' to the Monroe Doctrine." It [calls](#) for prioritizing the cultivation of "resistance to Europe's current trajectory within European nations."
- It reads, "We want Europe to remain European, to regain its civilizational self-confidence, and to abandon its failed focus on regulatory suffocation."

What they're saying: White House spokesperson Anna Kelly told Axios in a statement that the president "has great relationships with many European leaders, but he never shies away from delivering hard truths."

- She added, "The devastating impacts of unchecked migration, and those migrants' inability to assimilate, are not just a concern for President Trump, but

for Europeans themselves, who have increasingly noted immigration as one of their top concerns."

Zoom in: According to a [translation](#) by the Vatican, Leo also [stressed](#) to reporters the importance of Europe's role in peace talks, saying it's unrealistic to try to reach a peace agreement without European involvement.

- "Unfortunately," he added, per the translation, "not everyone understands this, but I believe there is a great opportunity for the idea of Europe to come together and seek solutions collectively."

State of play: Amid [growing tensions](#) between the U.S. and European powers on how to end the war, Trump [held a call](#) Wednesday with the leaders of France, the U.K. and Germany.

- [Zelensky](#) is facing pressure to accept Trump's [peace plan](#), which includes major territorial losses and other concessions, *Axios' Barak Ravid reports*.
- "He's going to have to get on the ball and start accepting things," Trump said of Zelensky in the Politico interview. "You know, when you're losing, 'cause he's losing."

Go deeper: [Trump's "Monroe Doctrine" bashes immigration and globalization](#)

Tucker Carlson nominated for Antisemite of the Year | Israel365news.com

#bibleprophecy

Dec 4, 2025

Tucker Carlson's name appeared this week on a list no public figure seeks out. StopAntisemitism, a watchdog organization with more than 300,000 followers on X, included the conservative commentator among its finalists for "Antisemite of the Year," an annual designation aimed at spotlighting individuals who amplify antisemitic ideology. His inclusion immediately intensified an already-fraught divide inside the conservative movement, where Carlson's influence remains significant and deeply polarizing.

The nomination follows months of controversy surrounding Carlson's interview with Nick Fuentes, the openly white nationalist activist whose *Groyper* movement has gained ground among segments of young Republicans. Carlson sat with Fuentes for two hours in October 2025, offering what many observers described as a friendly platform. Fuentes claimed that "organized Jewry in America" was a significant obstacle to a unified society; Carlson offered no objection and praised Fuentes several times. Senior Republicans, including strong pro-Israel voices, condemned the segment as legitimizing Holocaust denial and white nationalism.

Carlson's own comments in that interview sparked additional outrage, including his claim that Christian Zionists such as Senator Ted Cruz and President George W. Bush suffered from a "brain virus" for supporting Israel. Cruz responded that Carlson was spreading a "dangerous poison" aimed at undermining America's most enduring alliance in the Middle East. Carlson also repeated replacement-theology language during a recent broadcast, declaring, "There is no such thing as God's chosen people. This is heresy. God does not choose a people who kill women and children." Those remarks drew sharp condemnation from Jewish leaders who viewed them as both theologically hostile and politically charged.

StopAntisemitism explained its nomination of Carlson by stating that he has spent years "downplaying white supremacy" and promoting the "great replacement" theory, while turning extremist rhetoric "into broadcast-ready talking points." His interview with Fuentes deepened the uproar surrounding the Heritage Foundation, where at least eight members of the Project Esther National Task Force to Combat Antisemitism resigned or threatened to resign over Heritage president Kevin Roberts's decision to stand by Carlson and denounce his critics as a "venomous coalition."

Fuentes himself reacted bitterly to the finalists' list. The activist, who has previously been nominated by the group, complained on X that he felt snubbed, asking why he was not included this year. StopAntisemitism responded that it does not nominate

individuals more than once, adding that Fuentes' absence does not "erase his antisemitism" but instead allows space to highlight other figures who have spread anti-Jewish hate.

This year's list stretches across the political spectrum. The group nominated Ms. Rachel, the popular children's educator who has been outspoken about Palestinian suffering, claiming she "spread Hamas-aligned propaganda." Actress Cynthia Nixon was included for her BDS activism and public statements on Gaza. Also named were mixed-martial-arts fighter Bryce Mitchell, a Holocaust denier; far-right personality Stew Peters; and social-media figures associated with the left-wing network The Young Turks. Last year's recipient, Candace Owens, did not appear on this year's list despite renewed controversy over her conspiratorial accusations involving Israel.

The modern spread of antisemitic narratives—whether through conspiracy theories, replacement theology, or denial of Israel's legitimacy—revives the oldest hatred in new forms. Carlson's nomination did not emerge from a single comment. It is the result of a pattern in which hostile ideas are elevated, normalized, and presented as serious commentary rather than fringe rhetoric. That pattern carries consequences far beyond one media figure.

StopAntisemitism's contest is symbolic, but the ideas it identifies are real and measurable. Words from influential platforms shape public perception and give legitimacy to ideologies that once hid in the shadows. When those ideologies target the Jewish people, they strike at the heart of a biblical promise that has endured for millennia.

Magnitude-7.0 Earthquake Hits in Remote Wilderness along Alaska-Canada Border | Newsmax.com

#bibleprophecy, #earthquake, #alaska, #canada

Dec 7, 2025

A powerful, magnitude-7.0 earthquake struck in a remote area near the border between Alaska and the Canadian territory of Yukon on Saturday. There was no tsunami warning, and officials said there were no immediate reports of damage or injury.

The U.S. Geological Survey said it struck about 230 miles (370 kilometers) northwest of Juneau, Alaska, and 155 miles (250 kilometers) west of Whitehorse, Yukon.

In Whitehorse, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Sgt. Calista MacLeod said the detachment received two 911 calls about the earthquake.

“It definitely was felt,” MacLeod said. “There are a lot of people on social media, people felt it.”

Alison Bird, a seismologist with Natural Resources Canada, said the part of Yukon most affected by the temblor is mountainous and has few people.

“Mostly people have reported things falling off shelves and walls,” Bird said. “It doesn’t seem like we’ve seen anything in terms of structural damage.”

The Canadian community nearest to the epicenter is Haines Junction, Bird said, about 80 miles (130 kilometers) away. The Yukon Bureau of Statistics lists its population count for 2022 as 1,018.

The quake was also about 56 miles (91 kilometers) from Yakutat, Alaska, which the USGS said has 662 residents.

It struck at a depth of about 6 miles (10 kilometers) and was followed by multiple smaller aftershocks.

[Evacuation orders issued in Japan after powerful earthquake triggers tsunami warning | CNN.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #earthquake, #japan, #tsunami

Dec 8, 2025

A powerful magnitude-7.5 earthquake struck off Japan's northeastern coast on Monday, triggering evacuation orders and a tsunami warning for parts of the coastline.

A powerful magnitude-7.5 [earthquake](#) struck off Japan's northeastern coast on Monday, triggering evacuation orders and a tsunami warning for parts of the coastline.

Some parts of the country experienced tsunami waves, the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) reported in an update early Tuesday local time. A 2.3-foot (0.7-meter) tsunami height was observed at Kuji port in Iwate. A 16-inch (40cm) tsunami height was recorded in Aomori and Hokkaido, the JMA said earlier.

After several hours, the JMA downgraded the warning to a tsunami advisory. The agency also adjusted the quake's magnitude down from an initially reported 7.6.

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) said the earthquake struck at 11:15 p.m. local time (9:15 a.m. ET) around 44 miles (70km) off the coast of the country and at a depth of around 33 miles.

There were several reports from Aomori Prefecture of injuries and fires, Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihara said at a news conference early Tuesday. He said power outages have been reported in Aomori and Iwate and that high-speed train service was suspended between Fukushima and Aomori. Some sections of expressways were also closed, Kihara said.

Morikubo Tsukasa, a top disaster preparedness official, told reporters that "there is a possibility that a large-scale earthquake with a magnitude of 8 or higher could occur as a follow-up earthquake" off Japan's northeastern coast, public broadcaster NHK reported. He urged people to take precautions.

A CNN team in Japan's capital Tokyo felt strong tremors during the earthquake, which lasted for longer than 30 seconds.

Earlier, Kihara urged people in affected areas to evacuate to higher ground or move to safe buildings, such as evacuation shelters.

There have been no reports of “abnormalities at this time” at the country’s Higashidōri and Onagawa nuclear power plants, Kihara said. “We have received reports that other nuclear facilities are currently being checked,” he added.

Japan’s new prime minister, Sanae Takaichi, who was elected in October, said her government would work closely with local officials to assess the damage and put in place emergency response measures.

The government would be “acting as one under the principle of putting human life first,” she said.

Japan is no stranger to severe earthquakes. It lies on the Ring of Fire, an area of intense seismic and volcanic activity on both sides of the Pacific Ocean. The worst quake in recent Japanese history was the 9.1-magnitude Tohoku earthquake in 2011 that triggered a major tsunami and nuclear disaster.

That quake and tsunami left more than 22,000 people dead or missing and caused reactors at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant to melt down, releasing radioactive contamination into the surrounding area.

Majority of pastors now using AI to prepare sermons amid rapid embrace of technology: study | Christianpost.com

#bibleprophecy, #pastors, #ai, #sermons, #technology

Dec 7, 2025

- Nearly two-thirds of pastors who write sermons are now using AI tools in preparation.
- Sixty-one percent of pastors report using AI weekly or daily, up from 43% in 2024.
- Concerns about the ethical implications of AI-generated content are rising among church leaders.

A majority of pastors are now using artificial intelligence to prepare their sermons, with ChatGPT and Grammarly reported as the top two AI tools, new survey data shows.

"ChatGPT is the most visible generative AI tool that can engage in human-like conversations and assist with a wide range of tasks, from answering questions to generating content," researchers wrote in "[The 2025 State of AI in the Church Survey Report](#)" prepared by [AiForChurchLeaders.com](#) and Exponential AI NEXT.

"As the most popular AI tool among church leaders (26%), ChatGPT is being used for applications such as sermon preparation, research, and crafting church communications. Its versatility and ease of use make it a powerful asset for streamlining ministry work and sparking creative ideas."

The data, based on responses from 594 pastors and church staff members, shows that church leaders are now more concerned about "the weighty ethical and practical considerations involved" in the use of AI as they continue their rapid embrace of the technology.

Nearly two-thirds of church leaders surveyed who prepare sermons say they use AI tools in their sermon writing process, the researchers note.

"This suggests that AI is quickly becoming a key tool for pastors in their weekly message preparation," they wrote.

Some 61% of pastors say they use AI weekly or daily, up from 43% in 2024. In that share, 25% report using AI daily.

"Overall, the survey depicts a church that is increasingly open to the ministry possibilities of artificial intelligence, while still grappling with the weighty ethical and practical considerations involved," researchers state. "Most churches seem to believe that AI can be beneficial if used as a tool, but not a replacement for human connection and spiritual discernment."

Some 11% of church leaders report using the AI-powered writing assistant Grammarly for tasks like "polishing emails, newsletters, blog posts, and other church communications." Another 9% said they use Microsoft Co-Pilot, an AI search engine developed by Microsoft, to conduct research, while 8% report using Google Gemini. Another 8% of the church leaders in the study report using Canva Magic Studio, an AI-driven set of design capabilities within the Canva design platform, to design "social media posts, event flyers, presentation slides, generative AI fill, and other visual design functions."

"While some may view this as a concerning trend, others likely see it as a way to enhance their research, writing efficiency, and creativity," researchers note. "As AI sermon writing tools continue to improve, it will be important for church leaders to find the right balance between leveraging AI's capabilities and maintaining their unique voice and spiritual insights."

About 30% of the leaders involved in the survey represent churches with fewer than 100 members, while about a quarter (24%) represent churches with between 100 and 249 members. Fourteen percent are leaders of churches with 250 to 499 members; 11% have 500 to 999 members; 14% have 1,000 to 4,999 members and 2% of the leaders are at churches with 5,000 to 9,999 members. Another 2% report more than 10,000 members.

"The demographics reveal a broad interest in AI across different leadership roles within the church, with a notable representation from Gen X and Millennials. This diversity suggests a wide acknowledgment of AI's relevance but also indicates the potential for generational divides in technology acceptance and usage," the report notes.

Around half (50%) of the leaders involved in the survey are either lead pastors or executive pastors. The top concerns they had about the use of AI in ministry are now: misinformation and the theological accuracy or alignment of AI-generated content; AI replacing or diminishing personal, spiritual guidance and the quality of human relationships within the church community; privacy and data security; and transparency and accountability.

Still, church leaders are optimistic about the use of AI in ministry and believe that, with the right training, they can overcome hurdles as they arise. Some 87% of pastors said they are willing to invest in AI education and training for themselves and their staff.

"To overcome known hurdles, church leaders will need to prioritize AI education and training for themselves and their staff. This could include attending workshops,

partnering with AI experts, and investing in ministry-specific AI resources," researchers said. "Proactively addressing ethical considerations through the development of robust AI policies and frameworks will be critical to building trust and buy-in from congregations. By taking these steps, churches can position themselves to reap the benefits of AI while mitigating potential risks."

A survey released earlier this year by [Pushpay](#), a leading payments and engagement solutions provider for the faith-based and nonprofit sectors, collected in February from about 8,000 church leaders, suggests that the use of AI has increased by 80% across all ministries in churches, but only for specific tasks.

"While adoption (of AI) has increased, leaders remain reluctant to rely on AI for pastoral content. Last year's report revealed that less than one quarter of AI users applied the tool for developing devotionals, sermons, or ideas for pastoral care; that pattern still holds true today," Pushpay researchers noted. "The vast majority of AI use cases revolve around content generation and editing of communication materials like emails, imagery, and social media posts."

[Most self-identified Christians think doing 'good things' is enough to get to Heaven | Christianpost.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #christians, #salvation, #good works, #heaven

Dec 6, 2025

New research reveals that most self-identified Christians in America think doing “good things” for others is enough to secure them a spot in Heaven.

- Most self-identified Christians believe doing 'good things' is sufficient for entry into Heaven.
- 53% of Christians agree that a generally good person will earn a place in Heaven.
- Research indicates a widespread misunderstanding of sin and repentance among American Christians.

New research reveals that most self-identified Christians think doing “good things” for others is enough to secure them a spot in Heaven, in what one leading researcher laments as the latest example of a widespread embrace of “unbiblical beliefs” among American Christians.

A recent [report](#) released by the Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University examining Americans’ views on the afterlife constitutes the latest installment of the American Worldview Inventory 2025, a survey of 2,000 American adults conducted in March.

Overall, majorities of all Christian subgroups believe that every person will be judged personally by God, with 95% of theologically identified born-again Christians, 86% of Pentecostals, 84% of Evangelicals, 84% of independent and non-denominational Christians, 83% of Protestants, 82% of Mainline Protestants, 78% of self-identified Christians and 74% of Catholics embracing this belief.

A majority (53%) of self-identified Christians agree that “A person who is generally good, or does enough good things for others, will earn a place in Heaven.” A majority of Catholics (73%) believe that doing “good things” is enough to secure a place in Heaven. Less than half of Evangelicals (43%), Mainline Protestants (43%), theologically identified born-again Christians (42%), Protestants (41%), Pentecostals (41%) and Christians who attend independent and non-denominational churches (35%) said the same.

While over half of Catholics (54%) believe that “There are many paths to eternal salvation; you can choose whichever one you prefer,” less than half of self-identified

Christians (41%), Evangelicals (37%), Mainline Protestants (35%), Pentecostals (34%), Protestants (34%), and Christians who go to independent and non-denominational churches (31%) and theologically identified born-again Christians (27%) held this opinion.

“There remains a shocking degree of misunderstanding among Christians regarding sin, repentance, forgiveness and salvation,” said CRC Director of Research George Barna in reaction to the research.

“Millions of people who regularly attend Christian churches believe that eternal salvation does not depend on the sacrifice of Christ because of our sins,” he added. “They don’t understand this fundamental tenet of Christian belief.”

“Instead, we have a majority of self-described Christians hedging their eternal bets by integrating multiple means of salvation into their personal security plan.”

When asked if they agree that “Admitting that you have sinned is all you need to do to repent,” less than half of members of all Christian subgroups answered in the affirmative. However, the share of Christians who viewed simply admitting to sin as the only prerequisite for repentance is not insignificant.

Nearly half (48%) of Evangelicals and Pentecostals, 44% of Catholics, 40% of self-identified Christians, 39% of Protestants, 38% of theologically identified, born-again Christians, 37% of independent and non-denominational Christians and 36% of Mainline Protestants maintained that admission of sin alone constitutes repentance.

Barna lamented that “Tens of millions of people who attend Christian churches every week, and who consider themselves to be followers of Christ and eternally secure, do not seem to understand that repentance is necessary for salvation, and repentance demands a change in behavior.”

He stressed that “repentance is not merely sorrow over misdeeds” but “must include a determined effort to change both mind and actions to avoid committing the same sins in the future.”

“Simply apologizing to God, or saying a prayer asking for forgiveness, without a real effort to change the lifestyle, does not fit with biblical teaching about forgiveness and grace,” he insisted.

Barna concluded: “The presence of unbiblical beliefs in the minds of most Christian-leaning Americans reminds us that most people are information collectors rather than biblically consistent followers of Christ. Americans are more determined to be comfortable than biblically right. That preference will produce profound eternal effects for each of us.”

The findings of the AWI 2025 report are similar to the [American Worldview Inventory 2020 survey](#) released by the CRC in 2020, which found that 52% of people who describe themselves as Christian accept a “works-oriented” means to God’s acceptance.

The 2020 study also found that “huge proportions of people” tied to churches that state salvation comes only by accepting Jesus Christ as Savior, “believe that a person can qualify for Heaven by being or doing good,” including 70% of Catholics, 46% of Pentecostals, 44% of Mainline Protestants and 41% of Evangelicals.

Rising number of Brits leaving Christianity turning to paganism | Christianpost.com

#bibleprophecy, #christians, #united kingdom, #church, #apostasy

Dec 9, 2025

A growing number of Britons who leave Christianity are turning to paganism or other forms of spiritualism instead of converting to other major religions, a new study has found.

The survey, released by the Institute for the Impact of Faith in Life, questioned 2,774 adults who self-identified as having "experienced a change in their religious belief," seeking to provide insight into "how, why, and in what direction Britons are moving between faiths, spiritualities, and non-belief."

The researchers conclude that "Britain is not secularising in a straightforward way" but rather "undergoing a re-composition of belief, a shift away from inherited institutional structures towards personalised, practice-based, and wellbeing-oriented forms of faith."

Forty-four percent of respondents said they left Christianity, while only 17% said they had newly become Christians. Meanwhile, 39% of respondents said they had become an atheist or agnostic.

"Britain is undergoing a profound reconfiguration of religious identity," researchers Charlotte Littlewood and Rania Mohiuddin-Agir write in their [50-page report](#). "Although the 2021 census revealed a historic decline in Christian affiliation, this development does not reflect a disappearance of religion but rather a diversification and personalisation of belief."

"The largest single movement is away from organised religion. Many respondents left Christianity, usually towards atheism, yet the landscape is far more dynamic than a simple narrative of secularisation suggests. A substantial number shifted into new frameworks, including Islam, Dharmic traditions, and eclectic spiritual identities."

Around 67% of respondents who say they left Christianity say they became atheist/agnostic, while 20% say they "experienced weakened faith," and 9% say they adopted a form of spiritualism such as Wicca or Pagan. An additional 3% became Buddhist, and 2% became Muslim.

Atheism and agnosticism accounted for two-thirds of those leaving Christianity, but paganism and spiritualism together made up the largest block of religious conversions among them. Paganism, according to the Pagan Federation, refers to polytheistic or

pantheistic religions that emphasize nature worship and are not governed by the customs or dogmas of established religions.

The 2021 census recorded around 74,000 people identifying as pagan in Britain, up from 57,000 in 2011. The number of Wiccans rose from 11,800 to 13,000 from 2011 to 2021. These communities are primarily found in regions such as Cornwall, Somerset and Ceredigion.

"Media reports over the past decade document a visible revival of Pagan and Wiccan practices in Britain, particularly among women over 30 and those disillusioned with organised religion but seeking ethical and emotional coherence," the report reads.

"Our data adds weight to these observations, capturing a broader movement towards spirituality that is eclectic in form and often rooted in departure from the Abrahamic faiths. Reports of individuals becoming spiritual, or deepening an existing spiritual path, describe not a retreat from meaning but a reorientation toward practices that emphasise healing, balance, and wellbeing."

Pagan practices in Britain today are typically conducted in small groups or alone, without designated temples or ordained clergy, according to [The Telegraph](#). Ceremonies often take place in homes, gardens or natural spaces, with participants consecrating the ritual area each time. Instead of scripture or dogma, paganism centers around rituals and contact with divine forces through symbolic ceremonies.

Adherents may honor deities from a range of pre-Christian cultures, including Greco-Roman, Norse, Celtic and Egyptian traditions. Some draw on mythological archetypes, such as the horned god of nature or the triple-moon goddess. Participants often describe their spirituality as self-generated, experiential and personally meaningful rather than externally prescribed.

Environmentalism plays a major role in modern pagan beliefs, which hold that the natural world is inherently sacred. This view is often expressed through seasonal festivals, celebrations of the earth and spiritual reverence for nature cycles. Many followers consider their path a way to reconnect with the environment and resist the alienation of urban life.

Unlike many traditional religions, pagan belief systems generally do not include commandments, sin or salvation. Instead, followers are encouraged to develop their own ethical frameworks, pursue personal development, and engage with divinity in ways that affirm their individuality and freedom of thought.

The most cited reason respondents stated for leaving their faith was "lack of belief in God or the supernatural" (50%). Forty-three percent said they had "doubts about key doctrine or teaching (43%), while 37% said they had "clashes with personal values," and 33% said they had "intellectual and philosophical disagreements." One in five (20%) said that "a negative experience with faith leaders or the community" was their reason for leaving.

Although Christianity has undergone "the greatest losses," researchers say it has also seen a "striking number of new or returning adherents."

In the study, most new Christians did not identify with major denominations such as Anglicanism, Catholicism or Pentecostalism. Instead, they selected the "other" category, which the report interpreted as a sign that many preferred direct spiritual experiences, such as a "personal connection with Jesus," over institutional religion or doctrinal loyalty. There were also respondents who described taking a "conscious distancing from formal denominations."

Kirk Cameron changes stance on doctrine of Hell, says he no longer believes in 'eternal conscious torment' |Christianpost.com

#bibleprophecy, #christians, #hell, #kirk cameron, #eternal

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Actor Kirk Cameron stirred up a theological hornet's nest after he revealed he no longer believes in a Hell that includes "eternal conscious torment."

Actor and podcaster Kirk Cameron stirred up a theological hornet's nest after he revealed he no longer believes in a Hell that includes "eternal conscious torment."

Cameron, 55, shared his changing views during a [Dec. 3 episode](#) of the Kirk Cameron Show in which he and his son, James, explored biblical references to Sheol, Hades and Gehenna to "examine whether God's justice is compatible with endless suffering."

Acknowledging the doctrine of Hell is an "uncomfortable subject," Kirk said the topic is a popular point of contention for atheists who characterize it as the "eternal barbecue for sinners."

"Jesus died so that we could have eternal life. But do the wicked have eternal life in Hell? And if they do, why does the Old Testament describe the fate of the wicked in the opposite terms?" he asked, pointing to references using words like "destroy," "perish" and "death" when describing the fate of the wicked.

"The soul that sins, it shall die," he said, quoting from the prophet Ezekiel. "It will perish. It will be destroyed, which is like the ending of life, not the ongoing life forever in punishment."

He also pointed to history and the rise and fall of nations as an illustration of what he believes happens to those who die apart from faith in Jesus Christ. "When you look at God's judgment upon individuals or on nations, cities, empires, He says they're gone ... The symbolism is scorched earth, destroyed, gone, and their name is remembered no more," he said. "... And they're not coming back. It's like forever. Which really is a better description of dying, of perishing. Not being granted eternal life so that you can be tormented forever. That doesn't seem to fit."

Cameron bolstered his argument by citing Edward Fudge, author of the 1982 book, *The Fire That Consumes: A Biblical and Historical Study of the Doctrine of Final Punishment*, which argues in support of a conditionalist view, often called

annihilationism. This view, Fudge [contends](#), “sees Hell as the fire that consumes” rather than the traditionalist view of Hell as “the fire that torments forever.”

In his podcast, which has over 218,000 subscribers on YouTube, Cameron signaled agreement with Fudge’s thesis that “the immortality of the soul is not a biblical concept” and that the notion of an eternal destiny “in one of two places” was actually a pagan notion adopted by early Christians.

“He says that that concept was imported by early Christians who would read the readings of ancient philosophers like Plato, who weren't Christians and talked about the soul being immortal, eternal,” said Cameron. “And so, you're going to go to one of two places forever. You're going to go to Heaven forever or you're going to go to the bad place, Hell, or you know, whatever it is, forever. And that they imported that and just considered it a given and then brought that into Christianity.”

Best known by the Christian community for his roles in films like the “Left Behind” series and “Fireproof,” Cameron’s previous work with evangelist Ray Comfort and the Way of the Master ministry made the traditionalist doctrine of Hell a cornerstone of their evangelistic efforts.

In response to Cameron’s thoughts on annihilationism, Comfort said that while Kirk is no longer affiliated with his ministry, Living Waters, which doesn’t hold to Kirk’s position, he believes his former ministry partner is “sincere” in his belief.

“While we believe Kirk is sincere, we believe that conditional mortality and annihilationism are erroneous views, and that the Bible’s clear teaching on Hell is known as ‘eternal, conscious torment,’” Comfort told The Christian Post on Tuesday. “We firmly believe this is the only correct biblical view.”

Despite their theological disagreement, however, Comfort reiterated that he still considers Cameron a good friend and a strong Christian. “Kirk Cameron has been a dear friend of mine for decades,” he said. “I’ve known him to be a Godly man who loves the Lord, his family and the Church. In a world of phonies and make believe, especially in Hollywood, I think Kirk is the real deal.”

In addition to authoring articles like “[Friends Don’t Let Friends Go to Hell](#)” and [warning](#) sinners that “God’s place of punishment is called Hell,” Cameron made a name for himself in the Christian community in part through Comfort’s “[Way of the Master](#)” method, which involved a series of questions — “Have you ever told a lie? Have you ever stolen anything?” — invoking the Ten Commandments and God’s just punishment for sin.

Cameron, Comfort, and other evangelists would then ask the listener, “So if you stood before God’s judgment seat, where would you go? You’d go to Hell, right?”

Comfort has previously [shared](#) the moment of his first interaction with Cameron when an associate gave Cameron a CD titled “Hell’s Best Kept Secret,” which would eventually lead him to partner with Comfort in ministry.

In one [2015 video](#) titled “Firefighter Lets Family Burn Alive,” Cameron recounts a legal case in which a firefighter willingly failed to rescue a family from a burning home. “What do you think is a fitting punishment for this serious crime? Two years in prison? 20 years? A life sentence? Capital punishment?’ he asked the audience.

In that same video, Cameron quotes from the epistle of James, saying, “... Here's the point: if you're not sharing your faith, if you're not seeking the lost and obeying the scriptures to save them with fear, pulling them out of the fire, if you don't have enough concern for them to do that, then you are that firefighter.”

[Churchgoers gift more money, food at Christmastime to help those in need: study | Christianpost.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #christmas, #giving, #church, #protestants

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Christmas has long been a time of giving, and for church-going Protestants, this generally translates into giving more money and food to help those in need, a new study [published by Lifeway Research](#) shows.

The study, based on an online survey of a nationally pre-recruited panel of 1,200 American Protestant churchgoers, was conducted Sept. 2-7 with an error margin of plus or minus 3.2 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. It reflects a diverse profile of how Protestant churchgoers give based on factors such as race, sex, level of education, denominational affiliation, the size of their church and geographic location.

More than four-in-five Protestant churchgoers said they give more financial donations during Christmas, while 75% said they usually give new items to help others. The top item they reported giving last Christmas was food at a food bank.

“Many Americans traditionally give presents to others at Christmas, so we wondered if they also gave to charities during this season,” Scott McConnell, executive director of Lifeway Research, said in a statement provided to The Christian Post. “There is no shortage of opportunities and numerous requests for donations at Christmastime, and most churchgoers do give charitably at this time of year.”

Evangelicals were found to be more likely than non-Evangelicals to give financially to their church’s efforts to help those in need at a rate of 52% to 45%. Protestants who are Baptists were also more likely to donate to their churches’ efforts to help those in need than Methodists or Lutherans.

In general, nearly half of churchgoers (49%) reported contributing to church efforts to help the needy. Some 37% reported giving more to their church’s missions offering, while 29% gave directly to a needy person. Just over a quarter, 26%, said they gave a bit more money to their church’s general fund.

A minority of Protestant churchgoers, 13%, said they didn’t give any extra donations during the Christmas season.

“Since almost all Protestant churchgoers [attend at Christmastime](#), it is not surprising that they participate in financial giving opportunities at their church the most,” McConnell said. “And in the giving spirit, gifts in which the church helps others are far more popular than things that benefit the operation of the church itself.”

While only 14% of Protestant churchgoers gave additional financial contributions to their church's capital or building campaign, the study found that men, black Americans, Protestants in the Midwest, graduate degree holders, Presbyterians, and those attending churches with attendance between 100 and 249 people are more likely to donate to the building fund.

Although giving a physical gift is seen as less efficient than providing a financial gift, McConnell suggested that donors who give items to a cause this Christmas tend to feel more invested in what they donate.

"Donating items to charitable causes at Christmastime may not be as efficient as financial gifts to the charity, but it is a fun way for people to be involved in the cause," he said.

"Donors spend time as well as money purchasing items, so they are likely thinking longer about those they are helping. They are also often rewarded by seeing the collective donations of everyone, which affirms that they were part of something bigger than their own gift."