



SIGNS OF THE TIMES

News Articles for Episode 229

[White House economic adviser won't say if 87,000 new IRS agents will audit those making under \\$400,000 | Fox News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #irs, #biden, #taxes

Aug 8, 2022

The Inflation Reduction Act will raise taxes on middle class and low income Americans, according to the nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation

White House economic adviser Jared Bernstein appeared on CNBC's Squawk Box Monday and was interviewed by host Brian Sullivan, who questioned him about the impact the Inflation Reduction Act will have on taxpayers.

If passed by the House of Representatives and signed into law by President Joe Biden, the legislation would [add 87,000 IRS agents](#). Additionally, it would raise taxes on most Americans, despite promises not to increase taxes on those making less than \$400,000.

"I want to be clear, is the president guaranteeing nobody making under \$400,000 will be audited [by the new agents]?" asked Sullivan.

"No, no, no. That's not what I said. Nobody making under \$400,000 will pay higher taxes under the Inflation Reduction Act," Bernstein said.

"If they are doubling the size of the IRS then who are they gonna go after?" asked Sullivan, while also mentioning small businesses.

Bernstein did not answer the question regarding who the extra IRS agents would audit, and instead restated his pledge that people making under \$400,000 per year will not pay more in taxes.

However, [Fox News reported](#) that according to the nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT), Bernstein's pledge is not true. According to the JCT, Americans making less than \$10,000 per year would see a 0.3% tax hike starting in 2023. Overall, starting in 2023, taxes would increase by \$16.7 billion for Americans earning less than \$200,000.

[BIDEN SKEWERED FOR ADMITTING 'GOD KNOWS WHAT ELSE' IS IN INFLATION REDUCTION ACT](#)

Bernstein argued that the legislation's stimulus of so-called green energy sources will spur economic growth and hence reduce the debt-to-GDP ratio.

"By investing and standing up a clean energy industry, manufacturing as the act does, that's going to generate more economic growth, spin off more revenues," Bernstein said.

Many Americans are hurting economically, as data published by the Department of Labor in July revealed inflation is at a [record 40-year high](#).

[Northern Bronx suffers 30% spike in violent crime since electing 'defund the police' socialist Rep. Bowman - TheBlaze](#)

#bibleprophecy, #lawlessness, #police, #crime

Aug 17, 2022

Democratic [socialist](#) Rep. Jamaal Bowman (D-N.Y.) was elected to represent New York's 16th Congressional District on December 29, 2020. His district, encompassing most if not all of precincts 45, 47, and 50 in the Northern Bronx region, has seen a marked spike in violent crime this year.

[Fox News noted](#) that so far in 2022, there have already been 3,396 violent crimes reported in these three precincts, whereas the total number in 2021 was 2,609. Violent crimes [include](#) rape, robbery, felonious assault, and murders committed with a firearm.

This spike in violent crime constitutes approximately a 30% rise over last year's figures.

[Precinct 50 alone](#) has witnessed a 73.8% overall increase this year, up 185% since Bowman's election in 2020.

On a list of the precincts in the Bronx with the most murders, Bowman's 47th ranks fourth highest.

Statistics indicate worsening crime elsewhere in Bowman's district. The city of Mount Vernon, for instance, [has seen](#) a 39.4% total increase, with 80.4% more grand and petit larceny and twice as many rapes. In July, Mount Vernon saw a 260% increase in robberies.

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Shortly after his election, Bowman wrote, concerning American law enforcement: "A system this cruel and inhumane can't be reformed. Defund the police, and defund the system that's terrorizing our communities."

\u201cWe're fighting in your memory, Tamir. You won't be forgotten. \n\nA system this cruel and inhumane can't be reformed. Defund the police, and defund the system that's terrorizing our communities. \u201d

— Jamaal Bowman (@JamaalBowman) [1609281928](#)

[On February 12, 2021](#), Bowman reiterated his desire to defund the police, claiming that upon doing so, "we need to scrutinize the ones that remain with the full force of the law."

Bowman, [also an advocate for reparations](#), had previously [defined his terms](#): "Defund the police means defund the occupation of black bodies and the militarization of our communities."

In July 2020, around the time Bowman [declared](#), "We don't need to hire more police," former New York City Mayor [Bill de Blasio cut approximately \\$1 billion](#) from the NYPD's 2021 operating budget. [According to the Citizens Budget Commission](#), the department thus incurred \$322 million in cuts. The NYPD's head count was consequently reduced by [1,163 uniformed officers](#). By last estimate, the NYPD's authorized uniformed headcount [stands at](#) 34,771.

Despite his calls to defund the police, Bowman [reportedly](#) requested increased police presence at his home for a period of two weeks after the January 6 incident at the Capitol.

[China heatwave: Sichuan shuts factories to save power - CNN](#)

#bibleprophecy, #china, #heat, #temperatures

Aug 17, 2022

Hong Kong (CNN Business)China's Sichuan province has ordered all factories to shut down for six days to ease a power shortage in the region as [a scorching heat wave](#) sweeps across the country.

The decision was made to ensure that enough power is available for residential use, the notice said.

The southwestern province — which is also a key hydropower hub in China — has been gripped by extreme heat and drought since July. Since August 7, the heat wave in the province has intensified to "the most extreme level in six decades," and average rainfall has dropped by 51% from same period in previous years, according to an article [posted on the government's website](#) on Tuesday.

The province's top officials warned Monday that Sichuan is currently facing the "most severe and extreme moment" in power supply, according to government-run [Sichuan Daily](#).

Luzhou, a city in Sichuan, [announced last week](#) that it would shut off the city's street lights during the night to conserve power and alleviate the pressure on the electricity grid.

Sichuan is rich in mineral resources like lithium and polysilicon — key raw materials in the solar photovoltaic and electronics industry. Many international semiconductor companies have plants in Sichuan, including Texas Instruments ([TXN](#)), Intel, Onsemi, and Foxconn. Chinese lithium battery giant CATL, which supplies batteries to Tesla ([TSLA](#)), also has a factory in the region.

Shutting down factories for the week could tighten the supply of polysilicon and lithium and push prices higher, Daiwa Capital analysts said in a note to clients.

Several Chinese companies have warned their production could be affected by the Sichuan power cut, including Sichuan Haowu Electromechanical, an auto part manufacturer, and Sichuan Lutianhua, which produces fertilizers and chemical products.

Apart from Sichuan, other major Chinese provinces — including Jiangsu, Anhui, and Zhejiang — have also urged business and households to conserve power as the heat wave has depleted electric supplies.

In some regions, offices have been ordered to increase their AC temperature to above 26 degrees Celsius or shut down lift services for the first three floors, so as to conserve electricity.

Inflation risk

The extreme heat in China has also resulted in crop failures in many parts of the country, adding to inflationary pressures last month.

"Affected by the continuous high temperature in many places, the price of fresh vegetables rose by 12.9% year-on-year, which was significantly higher than the same period in previous years," Fu Linghui, a spokesperson for the National Bureau of Statistics, [said at a Monday press conference](#) in Beijing.

He pointed out that the extreme heat has caused droughts in some agricultural areas in the south. In the north, rainfall and flooding also resulted in some crop failures.

"August and September are the key periods for the formation of autumn grain production. [We must] pay close attention to the impact of natural disaster, insects and disease on our country's food production," he added.

[Texas school district removes the Bible, 'All Boys Aren't Blue' from library shelves for content review | Fox News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #bible, #schools, #texas

Aug 17, 2022

A spokesperson for the Texas school district says some books will be put back on shelves after the review

A [Texas school district](#) is removing 41 books from library shelves while administrators perform a review using content guidelines that will be approved by their board of trustees.

Included in the list of books that officials from the [Keller Independent School District](#) are asking to be removed from library shelves are "Anne Frank's Diary (The Graphic Adaptation)," the Bible and "All Boys Aren't Blue."

A spokesperson for Keller ISD told Fox News Digital that campus staff and librarians are being asked to review books that were challenged in the past year to determine if they meet the requirements of newly approved policies from the board of trustees.

"Keller ISD's Board of Trustees approved policies EFA (Local) and EFB (Local) at its August 8, 2022, Special Meeting. These policies relate to the acquisition and review of instructional materials and library books. Right now, Keller ISD's administration is asking our campus staff and librarians to review books that were challenged last year to determine if they meet the requirements of the new policy," a Keller ISD statement read. "All of the books included in Tuesday's email have been included on Keller ISD's Book Challenge list over the past year."

Books that are deemed in compliance with the new policies "will be returned to the libraries as soon as it is confirmed they comply with the new policy," the spokesperson said.

Members of the community, parents and employees can challenge a book or instructional resource used in the Keller ISD educational program. Previously, a committee considered the challenges and determined if the books were "educationally suitable or pervasively vulgar."

According to the district website, the book ["Gender Queer: A Memoir"](#) is no longer in circulation on its campuses. After "All Boys Aren't Blue" was challenged in November 2021, a district committee determined that it would remain "in high school libraries and in classroom libraries at the high school level."

Charles Randklev, president of the Keller ISD board of trustees, responded to claims on social media that the district is banning books such as the Bible and Anne Frank, stating they are "false."

"The district will be reviewing those books per updated policy using content guidelines pending board approval," Randklev said. "For those who are unaware or need a reminder, the board approved new policies on instructional materials (EFA and EFB local) to protect kids from sexually-explicit content, which has found its way into our schools."

[He said that the](#) Texas Education Agency required the school district to approve content-based policies regarding library content. The new policy instructs school officials to re-evaluate instructional materials that were previously challenged by community members, Randklev said.

Randklev added that books such as "Gender Queer" and "All Boys Aren't Blue" are "replete with graphic, gratuitous, sexually-explicit content ... and have no place in the hands of children."

The book "Gender Queer" includes graphic pictures of sexual acts that take place between a boy and a man, and has been a subject of concern from many parents across the country.

[Pope Francis Meets with Group of Transsexuals at the Vatican \(breitbart.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #pope, #gender, #lgbtq+

Aug 12, 2022

ROME — Pope Francis met a group of transsexuals in the Vatican this week, the fourth such encounter just in 2022, the Vatican newspaper *L'Osservatore Romano* reports.

“The pope’s attention to people who live this fragility with great suffering is opening up unimaginable hopes,” [said](#) Sister Geneviève Jeanningros and Father Andrea Conocchia, a priest and religious sister that offer pastoral care for the group.

According to *L'Osservatore Romano*, the nun and the parish priest summarize the meeting, which took place after the pontiff’s weekly general audience Wednesday, as “revolution and hope,” words that express the meaning of the encounter for its participants.

“If this is not a revolution, what is?!” said Father Conocchia. “The pope who grants an audience to transsexuals, addressing them with love, paternity, and simplicity is not a foregone conclusion.”

“The Gospel relaunches us, tells us to welcome everyone, especially those who are most in need and who are marginalized out of prejudice,” the Vatican newspaper added.

For her part, Sister Jeanningros declared that nobody “should suffer the injustice of being discarded, since every person has in himself the dignity of a child of God.”

Wednesday’s encounter between the pope and transsexuals followed on three other similar meetings, which took place on April 27, June 22, and August 3 of this year.

Commenting on the audience, *The Advocate* magazine, a pro-LGBT publication, [praised](#) Francis for “showing more support for LGBTQ+ rights than his predecessors,” while also criticizing him for his insistence on the biological distinction between men and women.

“LGBTQ+ rights advocates have welcomed Francis’s more accepting stances toward queer people than popes before him,” the magazine said. “However, he has strongly been against the view that gender can be self-determined outside of biology.”

The Vatican invested upwards of a million dollars to back the Rocketman film about singer Elton John. <https://t.co/RMyuLfe4en>

— Breitbart News (@BreitbartNews) [December 7, 2019](#)

Modern theories of gender are “often founded on nothing more than a confused concept of freedom in the realm of feelings and wants, or momentary desires provoked

by emotional impulses and the will of the individual, as opposed to anything based on the truths of existence,” the magazine cites Francis as saying.

In 2020, Pope Francis [denounced](#) the “evil” of gender theory, saying it seeks to erase the differences between men and women.

Gender theory is “dangerous,” the pope said in an interview later published as a book, because it implicitly wishes “to destroy at the root that creative project that God wanted for each of us — diversity and distinction — by making everything homogeneous and neutral.”

“It is an attack on difference, on God’s creativity, on man and woman,” Francis said.

“If I say this clearly, it is not to discriminate against anyone, but simply to warn everyone of the temptation of falling into the foolish project of the inhabitants of Babel: doing away with differences to seek a single language, a single form, a single people.”

[Michigan Pastor Says Church Has Repented for Using Word 'Picnic' \(breitbart.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #picnic, #woke, #repent

Aug 12, 2022

A woke Michigan pastor said his church has repented for using the word “picnic” to describe a church garden party or barbecue, due to the “negative association in the black community.”

Tom Arthur, [pastor](#) of Lansing, Michigan’s Sycamore Creek Church — [a Methodist organization](#) — seemingly engaged in a discussion inspired by a program [striving](#) to “empower people and culture toward racial healing, equity and reconciliation.”

Arthur, a self-described “white moderate,” reacted to a reading of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. quote, “Shallow understanding from people of goodwill is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will. Lukewarm acceptance is much more bewildering than outright rejection.”

“Man, I feel like Dr. King is speaking directly to me. A white moderate,” Arthur said, adding his tendency is to “try to get rid of the tension as quickly as possible.”

“MLK’s words continued to prod me to get off of the sidelines and to get in the game to be as concerned with how racism is harming people of color as I am concerned with how dealing with racism might cause tension in my own life or in the life of my church,” he said, explaining that he has been thinking about ways the church itself can repent as individuals.

“And one of the ways we’ve been doing this here lately as a church is with some of the language that we use,” he said before explaining that they no longer use the common word “picnic.”

“As we’ve involved more and more black people in our worship services in South Lansing, we’ve come to learn that the word picnic has a really negative history, negative association in the black community, and that’s because during times of lynchings, many white people would bring a picnic with them and sit to watch this while eating a meal outside,” Arthur said.

“So the origin of the word picnic is from a 17th century French word ... but in the black community, it’s taken on association of pick an ‘N word,’ and go lynch them,” he said, explaining that they have repented and use different words to describe gatherings to describe “having an outdoor meal together.”

WATCH:

Here's the wider context: this is part of a series based on Latasha Morrison's "Be The Bridge" program. The very beginning of the clip is a dramatic reenactment of King's Letter From A Birmingham Jail, to which the speakers then react. pic.twitter.com/5Nc9EngEM

— Woke Preacher Clips (@WokePreacherTV) [August 11, 2022](#)

This is hardly the first instance of churches across the country [going](#) “woke,” as many showed their true colors after the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*. Some woke churches went as far as asserting that the pro-life movement has a “demonic agenda,” claiming God to be “pro-choice” when it comes to terminating a pregnancy.

[Study: Many Gen Z and Millennial Christians Do Not Attend Church at Least Once a Month - Milton Quintanilla \(christianheadlines.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #apostasy, #attendance, #christians

Aug 12, 2022

A new study shows that over half of Generation Z and Millennials who have made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ do not attend church in person or online at least once a month.

According to the August [edition](#) of the "State of the Bible: USA 2022" report from the American Bible Society, about 66 percent of Gen Z and Millennials who have devoted their lives to Christ do not go to church either in person or online at least once a month.

Additionally, 40 percent of Generation Z adults, and 36 percent adults ages 77 and up attend church "primarily online."

The report also found that 54 percent of all adults up to age 57 who have "made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ that is still important in your life today," but less than a third of those in the three youngest generations who have made that commitment are "practicing" Christians, [The Christian Post](#) reports.

"This should challenge every Christian and ministry leader to intentionally cultivate relationships with their younger neighbors, who are often seeking security and hope amidst ever-increasing anxiety," John Farquhar Plake, director of ministry intelligence for the American Bible Society, said in a statement. "It's our prayer that every generation is able to meaningfully connect with the Word of God, engaging with it as a way of life and actively living out their faith in community."

The survey defines "practicing Christians" as self-professing Protestants or Catholics who greatly value their faith and go to church at least once a month while "non-practicing Christians" do not value their faith or attend church.

Non-practicing Christians who say they have personal commitment to Christ are 61 percent of Gen Zers and 57 percent of Millennials. When it comes to church attendance, 28 percent of Gen Z respondents attend church at least once a month, while 22 percent of Millennials said the same.

Non-practicing Christians were also far more likely than practicing Christians to watch church services online.

The study, which was conducted January 10-28, 2022, featured a nationally representative sample of 2,598 adults 18 years and older.

[Amazon Expands Palm Payments to 65+ Whole Foods Stores | PCMag](#)

#bibleprophecy, #payments, #amazon, #money

Aug 10, 2022

Register one or both hands at participating stores in California.

Amazon's palm-scanning technology is rolling out to dozens of Whole Foods stores in California.

More than 65 new locations will add the Amazon One system, which was [introduced in September 2020](#) to select Seattle-based Amazon Go stores, and later at [a handful of Whole Foods](#) across Washington.

Now the kiosks are heading to Los Angeles, Orange County, Sacramento, the San Francisco Bay Area, and Santa Cruz in the "coming weeks," [according to Engadget\(Opens in a new window\)](#).

The technology—which uses algorithms and hardware to create unique palm signatures—will eventually let people check out in stores, wrack up loyalty points, enter venues, and badge into work with no added accessories.

Anyone with a cell phone number and credit card can sign up; you don't need an Amazon account, though subscribers can log into the website to manage information and see usage history.

Get started by inserting a credit card into the reader then hovering your hand over the device; follow on-screen prompts to link that card with your biometric stamp, using one palm or both. The idea is that registered users can simply hold an unclenched hand above the Amazon One machine for a moment before going about their day.

Palm-reading machines are just one part of the tech giant's campaign to bring retail into the 21st century (and beyond). Amazon's cashierless Go stores and Just Walk Out equipment means customers can avoid human interaction while [picking up groceries](#) and leave their wallet at home when [grabbing a coffee](#).

Not everyone is onboard with the futuristic functions, though. Last year, Sens. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Bill Cassidy (R-LA), and Jon Ossoff (D-GA) [expressed concern](#) over the security of biometric data—which [the company claims\(Opens in a new window\)](#) is encrypted and stored on a dedicated cloud server.