



# **SIGNS OF THE TIMES**

**News Articles for Episode 378**

# Thousands rally in Tel Aviv against Netanyahu's new Gaza plan, demand release of hostages | Reuters

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #protesters, #gaza war, #hostages

Aug 10, 2025

TEL AVIV, Aug 9 (Reuters) - Thousands of protesters took to the streets of Tel Aviv on Saturday night to oppose Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's plan to escalate the nearly two-year Gaza war, demanding an immediate end to the campaign and for the release of the hostages.

A day earlier, the prime minister's office said the security cabinet, a small group of senior ministers, had decided to [seize Gaza City](#), expanding military operations in the devastated Palestinian territory despite widespread public opposition and warnings from the military the move could endanger the hostages.

"This isn't just a military decision. It could be a death sentence for the people we love most," Lishay Miran Lavi, the wife of hostage Omri Miran told the rally, pleading to U.S. President Donald Trump to intervene to immediately end the war.

Public opinion polls show an overwhelming majority of Israelis favour an immediate end to the war to secure the release of the remaining 50 hostages held by militants in Gaza. Israeli officials believe about 20 hostages are still alive.

The Israeli government has faced sharp criticism at home and abroad, including from some of its closest European allies, over the announcement that the military would expand the war. The full cabinet is expected to give its approval as soon as Sunday.

Most of the hostages who have been freed so far emerged as a result of diplomatic negotiations. Talks toward a ceasefire that could have seen more hostages released collapsed in July.

"They (the government) are fanatic. They are doing things against the interests of the country," said Rami Dar, 69-year-old retiree, who traveled from a nearby suburb outside of Tel Aviv, echoing calls for Trump to force a deal for the hostages.

Tel Aviv has seen frequent rallies urging the government to reach a ceasefire and hostage deal with Hamas, who ignited the war with their October 2023 attack. Saturday's demonstration attracted over 100,000 protesters, according to organisers.

"Frankly, I'm not an expert or anything, but I feel that after two years of fighting there has been no success," said Yana, 45, who attended the rally with her husband and two

children. "I wonder whether additional lives for both sides, not just the Israelis but also Gazans, will make any difference."

Around 1,200, mostly Israelis, were killed and 251 were taken into Gaza during Hamas' attack on Israel on October 7, 2023. More than 400 Israeli soldiers have been killed in Gaza since then.

Protesters waved Israeli flags and carried placards bearing the images of hostages. Others held signs directing anger at the government or urging Trump to take action to stop Netanyahu from moving forward with plans to escalate the war. A small number of protesters held images of Gazan children killed by the military.

Israel's military has killed more than 61,000 Palestinians in the war, according to the Gazan health ministry, which said on Saturday that at least 39 had been killed in the past day.

Some of the prime minister's far-right coalition allies have been pushing for a total takeover of Gaza. The military has [warned](#) this could endanger the lives of the hostages in Gaza.

Far-right minister Bezalel Smotrich, a proponent of continuing the war, issued a statement on Saturday criticising Netanyahu and called for the annexation of large parts of Gaza.

Netanyahu told Fox News Channel's Bill Hemmer in an interview that aired on Thursday that the military intended to take control of all of Gaza but that Israel did not want to keep the territory.

The announcement from the prime minister's office early on Friday said the military would take Gaza City, but did not explicitly say if Israeli forces would take all of the enclave.

Tal, a 55-year-old high school teacher, told Reuters at the rally in Tel Aviv that expanding the war was "terrible," warning it would result in the deaths of both soldiers and hostages and insisting that the war should end with the military withdrawing.

"We don't have anything to do there. It's not ours."

# **Moscow pushes for six-month delay of sanctions on Iran, as JCPOA talks continue - JNS.org**

#bibleprophecy, #iran, #russia, #sanctions, #nuclear

Aug 26, 2025

**European powers appear to be ready to decide soon whether they think Iran is serious about nuclear talks or whether sanctions are in order.**

Russia is circulating a draft resolution to the U.N. Security Council that would tack a six-month extension onto the Iran nuclear accord, during which time no action could be taken related to the agreement.

Moscow's goal is to give more space for negotiations between the Islamic Republic and the so-called E3 powers—the United Kingdom, France and Germany, all of which are signatories to the 2015 nuclear pact, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

The JCPOA is set to expire on Oct. 18. Iran and the three powers are scheduled to talk in Geneva today.

The Russian draft resolution, which JNS viewed, would extend the terms of the JCPOA until Apr. 18, 2026, and during that extension period, would suspend “any substantive consideration of any matters” related to implementing the accord and U.N. Security Council Resolution 2231, which gave legal force to the JCPOA.

There could be future extensions under the Russian resolution. Resolution 2231 allows a signatory to declare that Tehran is noncompliant with the pact, clearing the way for sanctions to return.

London and Paris, which are members of the Security Council, have threatened snapback sanctions due to Iran's noncompliance on issues, including nuclear inspection access and high levels of nuclear enrichment.

If a member of the council declares that Iran is noncompliant in the JCPOA, another member cannot veto that charge.

The E3 and other Western officials have stated that they intend to decide by the end of this month whether to extend the JCPOA, based on the progress of negotiations in the interim.

Russia is scheduled to assume the rotating presidency of the Security Council in September. It would then be able to obstruct efforts to harm Tehran, with which it is allied.

The United States, which withdrew from the JCPOA in 2018, cannot declare Iran to be noncompliant at the Security Council.

Iran has refused to allow inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency, which is aligned with the United Nations, into nuclear sites after U.S. and Israeli strikes on its facilities in June.

The E3 and others complained about a lack of access long before those attacks. They have also said that Tehran wouldn't answer questions about undeclared nuclear material and activities traced at multiple locations. In June, the board of governors of the IAEA censured Iran.

# Minneapolis shooter 'expressed hate towards almost every group imaginable' - ABC News

#bibleprophecy, #lawlessness, #hate, #murder, #evil

Aug 28, 2025

Two children were killed and 18 people were wounded in Wednesday's attack.

Urgent investigation after shooter opens fire at Minnesota Catholic school

Urgent investigation after shooter opens fire at Minnesota Catholic school Officials search for a motive after a lone shooter sprayed bullets into a church at Annunciation Catholic Church School, killing two children and injuring at least 17 others, mostly children.

A motive in the [Annunciation Catholic School mass shooting](#) remains under investigation, and police said they've not identified a specific trigger for why the children at this church were targeted.

Police did confirm that [Robin Westman, the 23-year-old suspect](#), had attended the school, and Westman's mother previously worked in the parish.

Investigators determined that Westman "harbored a whole lot of hate towards a wide variety of people and groups of people," and also "had a deranged obsession with previous mass shooters," Minneapolis Police Chief Brian O'Hara told ABC News Live on Thursday.

"This person, you know, committed this act with the intention of causing as much terror, as much trauma, as much carnage as possible for their own personal notoriety," O'Hara said.

"The shooter expressed hate towards almost every group," Joe Thompson, acting U.S. attorney for the District of Minnesota, said at a news conference on Thursday. "The shooter expressed hate towards Black people, the shooter expressed hate towards Mexican people, the shooter expressed hate towards Christian people, the shooter expressed hate towards Jewish people. In short, the shooter appeared to hate all of us."

The shooter also "expressed hate" toward President Donald Trump, he said.

"There appears to be only one group that the shooter didn't hate, one group of people who the shooter admired -- the group were the school shooters and mass murderers that are notorious in this country," Thompson said.

"More than anything, the shooter wanted to kill children, defenseless children. ... The shooter wanted to watch children suffer," Thompson said.

An 8-year-old and a 10-year-old were killed and 18 people -- including 15 kids -- were injured when the shooter opened fire through the windows of the Minneapolis school's church on Wednesday morning. All injured victims are expected to survive, police said.

Westman never entered the church building, but could have entered after shooting out a door-sized window, O'Hara told ABC News.

"These children were slaughtered by a shooter who could not see them," O'Hara said at a news conference, noting the shooter "was standing outside of the building firing through very narrow church windows."

Westman died at the scene from a self-inflicted gunshot wound, police said.

Driver's license information reviewed by ABC News described Westman as a female, born on June 17, 2002. A name change application for a minor born on the same date, June 17, 2002, was approved by a district court in Minnesota in 2020, changing the name of a Robert Westman to Robin Westman, explaining the minor child "identifies as a female and wants her name to reflect that identification."

Investigators are reviewing hundreds of pages of documents, videos and other evidence as they look for a motive, O'Hara said.

Police have also conducted dozens of interviews with witnesses as well as people who knew the suspect, though investigators "have not been successful" in talking to Westman's mother, the chief said.

A neighbor of Robin Westman's father and stepmother, who describes himself as a close friend of the family, said some family members began getting death threats less than three hours after the shooting took place.

"This is going to ruin their lives," the neighbor, who declined to be publicly named, told ABC News.

The neighbor said Robin Westman was into activities that interested many kids -- particularly skateboarding and rock climbing -- and was "a good kid who gave up no signs of violence."

"If she was radicalized, it must have been quickly. We have no idea how this could happen," the neighbor said.

The father and stepmother "were the best neighbors I can possibly imagine," the neighbor said, describing the family as "apolitical," "not a gun family" and "live and let live people."

The neighbor said he wishes for "grace and sympathy" for the parents.

"They are not at fault," the neighbor said. "She was a young person living on her own. The parents don't have access to what they are doing unless they are checking everything they do. What parent is doing that?"

Officials are investigating a series of videos posted to YouTube believed to be associated with the suspect, according to law enforcement sources familiar with the matter. Two videos, posted Wednesday morning and since removed by YouTube, show someone flipping through dozens of pages of notes dated over the course of several months, which include what appears to be doodles of weapons, middle fingers and expletives, as well as repeated references to killing.

Writings in notebooks and on the guns indicate a series of grievances, anger and ideations of harm to self and to others. The writings also appear to show overt references to other high-profile school shootings and shooters.

Officers recovered three guns -- one rifle, one shotgun and one handgun -- at the scene, all of which are believed to have been fired in the attack, police said. All of the guns were purchased legally by Westman, police said, and authorities believe they were purchased recently in Minnesota.

Three shotgun shells and 116 rifle rounds were recovered, police said. One live round was recovered from a handgun that appeared to malfunction, leaving the bullet stuck in the chamber, the chief said.

As Minneapolis mourns, Mayor Jacob Frey is stressing the need for gun control, telling ABC News' "Good Morning America," "How many times have you heard politicians talk of an 'unspeakable tragedy'? And yet this kind of thing happens again and again."

"Prayers, thoughts, they are certainly welcomed, but they are not enough," Frey said. "There needs to be change so that we don't have another mayor, in another month-and-a half, talking about a tragedy that happened in their city."

Danielle Gunter, whose son, an eighth grader, was shot and wounded, said in a statement to [Minneapolis ABC affiliate KSTP](#), "We feel the pain, the anger, the confusion, and the searing reality that our lives will never be the same. Yet we still have our child."

"We grieve and we pray: for the others who were shot, for their families, and for those who lost loved ones," she said.

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz said he's sending state law enforcement to help with security at schools and places of worship in the city.



# [This is the moment the internet changed forever | YouTube.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #internet, #digital id, #control, #surveillance

Aug 22, 2025

A huge portion of the digital world now requires mandatory ID checks.

New surveillance laws such as the UK's Online Safety Act, the EU's Chat Control proposal, and a wave of US state-level KYC mandates have transformed the internet from an open network into a system of checkpoints and control.

In this video, we expose the coordinated attack on privacy happening around the world. We trace how we got here, how platforms were pressured into compliance, and why this wave of regulation is unlike anything we have seen before.

[00:00](#) SHOW YOUR PAPERS

[01:43](#) UK's Online Safety Act

[03:06](#) A Global Pattern

[06:11](#) How Did We Get Here?

[07:49](#) What Now?

[14:05](#) The Solution

This landslide of lost freedoms has happened in mere weeks. It will become permanent if we don't resist.

The way forward is to rebuild the internet into what it was meant to be: a free and open network, not a system of checkpoints and control.

# France clarifies recognition of Palestinian state at UNGA not tied to Gaza ceasefire | All Israel News

#bibleprophecy, #internet, #digital id, #control, #surveillance

Aug 22, 2025

## **Several Western nations set to join France in recognition announcement at September UN sessions**

With the UN General Assembly (UNGA) set to begin in New York on Sept. 9, France is expected to officially [announce](#) its recognition of a Palestinian state ahead of the opening proceedings.

Near the end of July, French President Emmanuel Macron [announced](#) that “Consistent with its historic commitment to a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, I have decided that France will recognize the State of Palestine,” Macron wrote on X at the time. “I will make this solemn announcement before the United Nations General Assembly this coming September.”

Macron also noted that he had written a letter to Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, expressing his “determination to move forward.”

Shortly after Macron’s announcement, and following the publication of misleading images in international media depicting alleged famine in Gaza, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer [announced](#) that the United Kingdom would also recognize a Palestinian state, even if Israel did not agree to a ceasefire in Gaza.

France, by contrast, did not tie its recognition announcement to the status of a ceasefire.

Israeli officials, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, [warned](#) that recognizing a Palestinian state under current conditions would reward Hamas terrorism and pose a direct threat to Israel.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio also blasted the decision, saying that it “only serves [Hamas propaganda](#) and sets back peace. It is a slap in the face to the victims of October 7th.”

France had previously co-hosted a conference in New York with Saudi Arabia, aiming to secure a joint declaration of Palestinian statehood with other Western nations. However, with Israel and the U.S. [boycotting the event](#), the gathering concluded with only a declaration of intent to pursue recognition at the UNGA in September.

At the time, U.S. State Department Spokeswoman Tammy Bruce dismissed the conference as a "publicity stunt" to empower Hamas and undermine prospects for peace.

"This is a publicity stunt that comes in the middle of delicate diplomatic efforts to end the conflict. Far from promoting peace, the conference will prolong the war, embolden Hamas, and reward its obstruction and undermine real-world efforts to achieve peace," Bruce said in an official statement.

Several days after France and Britain announced their intention to recognize a Palestinian state, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney announced that [Canada](#) would follow suit.

Despite protesting that such a move did not represent a "reward for Hamas," the terror group was quick to praise the nations for their recognition, with senior Hamas official Ghazi Hamed saying the recognition is "one of the [fruits](#) of October 7."

The three Western nations were also joined by [Australia](#), whose Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced his government's intention to recognize a Palestinian state at the UNGA next month.

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar recently severely criticized the diplomatic push, calling the two-state solution the "[two-state illusion](#)."

"In the international community, it's become a slogan, two-state solution. Who said it's the solution? It's probably the problem. I say it's the two-state illusion," Sa'ar stated earlier this month. He also noted that the only previous attempt to establish a Palestinian state – in Gaza after the [2005 Disengagement Plan](#) – ultimately resulted in the creation of a terror state.

Last week, Netanyahu sent harsh letters to the leaders of France and Australia, calling them out for the [rising levels of antisemitism](#) in their countries while they focus on targeting Israel's actions in Gaza.

"Your call for a Palestinian state pours fuel on this antisemitic fire. It is not diplomacy, it is appeasement. It rewards Hamas terror, hardens Hamas's refusal to free the hostages, emboldens those who menace French Jews and encourages the Jew-hatred now stalking your streets," Netanyahu wrote in the letter to Macron.

Israeli Ambassador to France Joshua Zarka called France's push for recognition of a Palestinian state a "[terrible mistake](#)," saying it is driven by domestic fears over France's large Muslim immigrant population, rather than a clear foreign policy.

Recently, Israeli coalition government members called for Netanyahu to [declare sovereignty](#) over the territories of Judea and Samaria in response to the push for a Palestinian state.

Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich also announced the [approval](#) of the controversial and long-delayed [E1 settlement plan](#), saying the approval “buries the idea of a Palestinian state.”

Western nations attacked the announcement as counterproductive, urging Israel to [cancel](#) construction of new settlements in the disputed territories.

So far, the United States has opposed plans to recognize a Palestinian state and has refused to comment on the E1 plan.

# [Warning as deadly cattle-borne superbug is spreading to humans | MSN.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #cows, #superbug, #infections, #sickness

Aug 23, 2025

A dangerous superbug commonly found in cattle can jump to humans, and researchers warn that infections may soon become untreatable.

A team from Penn State University discovered that Salmonella Dublin has become increasingly resistant to antibiotics and is spreading to humans through contaminated beef, milk, or cheese, or through direct [contact with infected cows](#).

Researchers studied 2,150 [Salmonella Dublin](#) strains from cattle, humans, and the environment and found they were all genetically similar, making it easier for the bacteria to spread across species.

This bacterium typically causes [severe illness or death](#) among cows, but it can also result in serious blood infections among people, especially those in close contact with farm animals. In severe cases, Salmonella Dublin can kill people.

Making matters worse, the new study revealed that cattle strains have the highest levels of antibiotic resistance, particularly to drugs meant for treating infections, such as tetracycline and cephalosporins.

The increasing antibiotic resistance means that infections may become harder to treat, potentially leading to longer illnesses or more severe symptoms for people and animals.

If treatments become less effective, human infections could become more dangerous, especially for vulnerable groups like the elderly, children, or those with weak immune systems.

Study authors added that the US, being a major beef and dairy-producing country, is at an even greater risk of this superbug turning into a widespread health emergency.

The researchers used data from two public sources: the National Center for Biotechnology Information Pathogen Isolate Browser and the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System.

These provided whole-genome sequences of Salmonella Dublin, which allowed the team to examine each strain's genes in detail.

They compared 581 samples from cattle, 664 from humans, and 905 from the environment (food and farm areas) to identify patterns in how the bacteria's genes cause severe disease and resist antibiotics.

The bacteria from cows, people, and the environment were incredibly similar, with 72 percent of the 2,150 strains differing by only a few DNA changes.

Although cow strains had the most genes that were resistant to medication, those found contaminating food and surfaces had more DNA mutations linked to quinolone resistance, a drug used to treat humans.

However, the study published in [Applied and Environmental Microbiology](#) warned that each strain examined had similar genes that make them dangerous, like those helping them stick to cells or invade the body.

These genes were present in almost every strain in cows, people, or food, meaning the bacteria are consistently harmful no matter where it's found.

Study leader Erika Ganda, an associate professor of food animal microbiomes, said in a [statement](#): 'That's important, because it shows that Salmonella Dublin is highly connected across humans, animals and the environment — so efforts to control it need to consider all three.'

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)) has estimated that Salmonella bacteria, including Dublin, cause about 1.2 million illnesses every year in the US.

Salmonella Dublin infections have been particularly severe due to their tendency to cause bloodstream infections.

Between 2005 and 2013, a staggering 78 percent of Salmonella Dublin infections required hospitalization, and 4.2 percent resulted in death.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) treats Salmonella outbreaks, including those involving Dublin, as high-risk health emergencies, often issuing urgent recalls to prevent their spread.

One incident in 2019 saw 34,222 pounds of contaminated ground beef from Central Valley Meat Company in California recalled to prevent a large-scale outbreak.

However, 13 people were infected with Salmonella Dublin in the state, and one died.

Now that the bacterium has become resistant to antibiotics, the threat to humans is greater than ever.

The CDC has said that antibiotic-resistant infections, including those from Salmonella, cause over 2.8 million illnesses and more than 35,000 deaths each year in the US.

The researchers emphasized the need for a 'One Health' approach, combining efforts in human, animal, and environmental health to control the superbug's spread and reduce antibiotic use in livestock.

# [World Health Organization warns of epidemic threat as dangerous virus spreads: 'We are seeing history repeating itself' | Yahoo.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #virus, #infections, #sickness, #mosquitoes

Aug 23, 2025

## **World Health Organization warns of epidemic threat as dangerous virus spreads: 'We are seeing history repeating itself'**

Officials with the World Health Organization are [alerting](#) the public to a potential revival of epidemic proportions. New reports show the chikungunya virus is spreading outside of its typical distribution, according to Reuters.

### **What's happening?**

Chikungunya is a virus that was first [identified](#) in the United Republic of Tanzania in 1952. Since then, it's emerged across Africa and Asia, particularly in the Indian Ocean region. It's spread by mosquitoes, most commonly by the species [Aedes aegypti](#) and [Aedes albopictus](#). Once bitten, an infected person can expect to experience fever and severe joint pain.

Right now, an estimated 5.6 billion people across 119 countries are [at risk](#) of contracting the virus as it spreads to Europe and other continents, per Reuters. WHO officials are concerned that the pattern is similar to an epidemic of the disease that happened between 2004 and 2005 and impacted nearly half a million people.

"We are seeing history repeating itself," [said](#) Diana Rojas Alvarez, a medical officer at the WHO, per Reuters.

### **Why are mosquito-borne illnesses important?**

According to the WHO, mosquitoes are the [most common](#) vector of disease. Illnesses such as chikungunya, malaria, and West Nile cause nearly 800,000 deaths each year worldwide.

Humans are more likely to be infected where mosquitoes [thrive](#) in warm, wet climates. With global temperatures [on the rise](#), the insect's habitat is expanding.

### **What's being done about mosquito-borne illnesses?**

There are [no medicines](#) currently known to treat chikungunya, though two types of [vaccines](#) are available in the United States and [acetaminophen or paracetamol](#) can

alleviate symptoms, per the CDC. With this, as with many mosquito-borne illnesses, prevention is key.

Mosquito-borne illnesses are easily preventable by controlling the insect population and preventing them from breeding. In California, vector district officials are working to sterilize male mosquitoes in an effort to control populations. Scientists in Burkina Faso have developed a mosquito-killing fungus to be introduced to the insects during mating.



# **First travel-related human screwworm case detected in Maryland | Fox News**

#bibleprophecy, #screwworm, #infections, #cattle, #mosquitoes

Aug 25, 2025

## **Parasitic fly larvae feeds on live flesh and can be fatal if untreated**

The first case of a travel-associated human [screwworm infection](#) has been detected in Maryland.

Andrew Nixon, spokesperson for the Department of Health and Human Services, confirmed to Fox News Digital that the patient had recently returned from a trip to El Salvador, a country affected by a [screwworm outbreak](#).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) worked in conjunction with the Maryland Department of Health to investigate the case.

## **FIVE DEATHS REPORTED AMID BACTERIAL INFECTION OUTBREAK IN MAJOR CITY**

The CDC confirmed the diagnosis on Aug. 4 after experts reviewed larvae images.

"The risk to [public health](#) in the United States from this introduction is very low," Nixon said.

New World screwworm, also known as myiasis, is a [parasitic infestation](#) of fly larvae that feeds on live flesh, according to the CDC.

A person can contract myiasis when females drop their eggs on or near a person's wound, nose or ears.

It can also be transferred through ticks and mosquitoes after the fly attaches its eggs to the insects, per the above source.

In the case of an infection, a lump will develop in the person's tissues as the larvae grow and eat flesh. It can be fatal if not treated at an early stage, health experts warn.

"Myiasis is not common in the U.S.," the CDC states on its website. "Most people diagnosed with myiasis in the U.S. were infected [when traveling](#) to tropical areas where myiasis most often occurs."

Livestock such as cattle, sheep and goats are highly vulnerable, making it a significant economic pest, according to the CDC.

Reuters reported last week that the CDC had confirmed a case of New World screwworm in Maryland from a person who traveled from Guatemala.

The discrepancy in the reports regarding the origin of the case has not been confirmed.

This summer, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Brooke Rollins announced a plan to build a sterile fly facility in Texas to combat the pest.

It is estimated that a screwworm outbreak in Texas could cost the state's economy \$1.8 billion in livestock deaths, labor costs and [medication expenses](#), according to Reuters.

**[For more health articles, visit \[www.foxnews.com/health\]\(http://www.foxnews.com/health\)](http://www.foxnews.com/health)**

There have not been any confirmed animal cases this year.

# **Good News Clubs win equal access in Oakland school district | Christianpost.com**

#bibleprophecy, #california, #good news club, #school, #oakland

Aug 16, 2025

A federal judge has ordered a California school district to give Good News Clubs the same access to its campuses as other after-school programs. The ruling came after years of denials that had blocked the Christian clubs from operating on school grounds.

U.S. District Judge Haywood S. Gilliam Jr. granted a preliminary injunction requiring the Oakland Unified School District to allow the Child Evangelism Fellowship's Good News Clubs to use school facilities on an equal basis with nonreligious groups, according to [Liberty Counsel](#).

The injunction is the first legal step in a case that could secure permanent access for the clubs, according to the group.

The lawsuit was filed in December 2024 by Liberty Counsel on behalf of CEF NorCal East Bay after the district refused applications for club meetings across four campuses.

The denials were based on what the plaintiffs described as discriminatory reasoning, including references to the group's religious character and silence from administrators over a two-year period.

In his order, Judge Gilliam wrote that "the law and facts clearly favor" the claim that the district had violated free speech protections. He rejected the argument that allowing Good News Clubs to meet on campuses would breach the Establishment Clause, pointing to U.S. Supreme Court precedent that schools cannot exclude religious clubs if they provide access to secular groups.

The ruling means Good News Clubs will be able to hold weekly meetings on the same terms as activities such as Girls on the Run and Berkeley Chess School, which operate in the district's schools.

The clubs are held after classes, are not sponsored by schools, and require parental consent for participation.

Before the pandemic, CEF NorCal East Bay had regularly hosted Good News Clubs on district campuses. All clubs were cancelled in the spring of 2020 as part of COVID-19 lockdown measures. When the fellowship sought to resume activities in 2023, the district responded with repeated denials.

In some cases, officials wrote that the clubs were not a "good match" and that "we are not in support of Evangelism on our campus." The district also denied applications by

citing a lack of space even when rooms were listed as available, and declined to process a “community partnership” application because of the group’s religious programming.

In 2001, the Supreme Court held in *Good News Club v. Milford Central School* that public schools cannot bar Christian clubs from meeting on the same terms as secular ones when they have opened facilities to outside groups.

Liberty Counsel argued that the Oakland district’s actions were a direct violation of that precedent.

CEF, founded in 1937, is an international Christian nonprofit serving children and families. Its Good News Clubs are typically led by trained volunteers, meet once a week immediately after classes and provide lessons, activities, and character development rooted in Christian teaching.

Liberty Counsel has represented CEF in numerous legal cases across the United States and has never lost a case concerning Good News Clubs.

Last July, a federal court [ordered](#) the Hawaii Department of Education and six individual elementary schools to allow Good News Clubs to operate on public school campuses just like any other club. The directive came months after CEF sued education officials for blocking their student clubs from operating in four local school districts.

# **Faith in the midst of war: Dr. Erez Soref on why more Jews are turning to Jesus - THE ROSENBERG REPORT | All Israel News**

#bibleprophecy, #salvation, #messiah, #jews, #christian

Aug 23, 2025

## **President of 'ONE FOR ISRAEL' shares exclusive insights and his personal story of how he, once a secular Jew, came to faith in Jesus**

Dr. Erez Soref, the president of '[ONE FOR ISRAEL](#)' ministries, grew up in a traditional Israeli Jewish household. Like many young Israelis, he completed his IDF military service and set out to travel the world. It was during that journey through Southeast Asia and Europe that he began searching for deeper meaning, exploring his spirituality, and ultimately came to believe that Jesus (*Yeshua*) is the Messiah.

"In the Netherlands, I met a group of believers in Jesus for the first time in my life. And they told me that Jesus changed their life," Soref shared in the latest episode of THE ROSENBERG REPORT, filmed at the National Religious Broadcasting Convention in Dallas, Texas.

"They were young Christians, not super sophisticated, not particularly knowledgeable with the Word of God, but they were very enthusiastic about God and His word," he told TBN host and ALL ISRAEL NEWS Editor-in-Chief Joel Rosenberg.

What struck him most was their direct relationship with God. Those young believers talked directly to him through the Jewish Bible.

"I was brought to jealousy," he explained. "And eventually I told myself, 'Erez you are a hypocrite. You need to read the New Testament.'"

As he read, he felt drawn to Jesus. "I just fell in love with Jesus. He wasn't like other religious leaders," Soref said.

After he had a spiritual experience with the Lord, he became even more passionate about reading the Bible and started wondering: How come he has been in the land of the Bible for all these years, without knowing any of this?

His discovery turned into a lifelong calling. Through his personal journey, Soref became the prototype of who his ministry is trying to reach.

Soref now leads ONE FOR ISRAEL an evangelistic, discipleship ministry that has become a multimedia success story while also running the only accredited Bible college in Israel.

A key turning point came in 2010, when the Rosenberg's' ministry, [The Joshua Fund](#), invested heavily in Soref's then-small 'start-up' media initiative.

"One of the most dramatic things that your ministry is doing is the short-form testimony videos of Israeli Hebrew-speaking Jews who come to faith in Jesus, and Americans as well – myself included. But when did that idea start?" Rosenberg asked.

"Some of the graduates of the Bible College, younger than me, came and said, 'we're going to have here an internet revolution'," Soref recalled. "The point was to share... somebody sitting in front of a camera just sharing their journey."

Soref believed personal stories would resonate, but he never imagined how far they would reach.

"Israel is a country of 9 million people. The viewership is in the hundreds of millions, in Hebrew only," he told Rosenberg. In English, the videos have been watched nearly 450 million times.

"It doesn't mean that everybody agrees... It doesn't mean that everybody embraces the gospel. However, many people – I would say about two-thirds of the people – are writing to us, contacting us, texting us," Soref added.

In 1967, there were fewer than 2,000 Jewish people around the world who believed that Jesus is the Messiah. Recent studies indicate there are now [one million followers of Jesus worldwide of Jewish descent](#).

The war that erupted in Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, has only accelerated the trend, with notable shifts in spiritual dynamics.

"We have seen a tremendous uprise in the number of people that contact us and the number of people that write to us and want to know more about the Lord," Soref said.

"We call upon God when things are not going well. And this has been the hardest time for Israelis and Jews worldwide since the Holocaust," he noted.

When asked by Rosenberg if he believes this trend will continue even after the war ends, Soref admitted it's hard to predict. Whereas we might see a "little decline" in the short term – overall, the number of Jews receiving Jesus as Messiah will keep increasing.

"People under the age of 35 in Israel, all have heard that there's a growing group of Jewish people claiming Jesus as our Messiah and I think that's going to continue," he explained.

Soref also emphasized the importance of Evangelical support during this difficult time, through a combination of humanitarian relief work and sharing the word of God.

“I think Israelis have seen during this war that the only friends that Israel has are the Evangelical Christians. Nobody else is our friend anymore.”