



# **SIGNS OF THE TIMES**

**News Articles for Episode 292**

# Five small red cows that rocked the world - Israel365 News

#bibleprophecy, #temple, #israel, #red heifers

Feb 15, 2024

## **Prophecy of the Tenth Red Heifer.**

According to the Mishnah, the written version of the Jew's oral teachings, the red heifer sacrifice has only been performed **nine times** in the history of the Jewish people to provide ashes for consecration. The ashes from the red heifer are needed to dedicate the Third Temple. The red heifer must be without a spot or a blemish (Numbers 19:1-2, 10). There is a prophecy in the Mishnah stating that when the "**tenth red heifer**" appears, it is a sign that the temple will be restored, and the Messiah will finally come.

In September of 2022, five unblemished red heifers were delivered to Israel from Texas donated by a Christian Texas rancher. For two thousand years, the Jewish people have waited and searched for an unblemished red heifer. Now, suddenly, five are offered up by a Christian rancher.

God is moving on behalf of His people Israel in these last days to fulfill prophecy, to let His people, and the world, know that His words concerning Israel will be fulfilled. He will have His witnesses for His prophetic word that will declare, "*The King is going before His people.*" (Micah 2:13). He will break out and come up before them so they can pass through the gate into their inheritance.

## **Return of the Third Temple.**

Temple Mount Compound

At this time in the Middle East, the Temple Mount is in dispute with Arabs, fearing they may lose control over it. A Hezbollah spokesman stated the reason that they started this war is because Israel brought five red heifers to Israel to build the temple on Temple Mount. **The October 7<sup>th</sup> attack in 2023 was named "Operation Al-Aqsa Flood"** by Hamas. They are stating they brought this fight to defend their claim of the temple mount. The Al-Aqsa Mosque sits atop the Temple Mount. It is considered the third holiest site to Muslims and was built in the 8<sup>th</sup> Century AD. When the Jews won the 1967 war and took over Jerusalem, an arrangement was made with Jordan to oversee and protect this mosque and the compound. The Jordanian Waqf is the organization appointed to this task. The Temple Mount holds great importance to Jews and Christians. It is the third holiest site in Islam. The Jews believed King Solomon built the first temple on this site three thousand years ago. They believe the Romans

destroyed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple at this location in 70 AD. It is important to Christians because of prophecy and its association with events in the life of Christ.

### **Prophecies concerning the rebuilding of the Third Temple.**

There are prophecies for Israel that are now in the process of fulfillment. A number of them have to do with the return of the scattered tribes of Israel such as in Ezekiel 36:24.

*“I will gather you from among the nations, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.”*

*As the tribes are returning to Israel, Hashem has spoken by His prophets that He will rebuild the temple, “**I will set up My sanctuary in the midst of them.**”*

*(Ezekiel 37:26-28).*

The rebuilding of the Third Temple is to be a witness to the world that God is in the midst of His people Israel and is consecrating them for His glory when they have returned to the land of Israel after being scattered in the nations:

*“Then you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel: I am the Lord your God and there is no other. My people shall never be put to shame. It shall come to pass afterward that I shall pour out My Spirit on all flesh.” (Joel 2:27).*

This promised temple will be built with help from the nations or “those from afar off.”

*(Zechariah 6:15).*

The rebuilding of the temple is closely linked to the restoration of Israel and the Messianic Era. It is the place from which the Messiah will rule.

*“Behold, the Man whose name is the Branch! From His place He shall branch out, And He shall build the temple of the Lord; And he shall sit and rule on His throne.” (Zech. 6:12-13).*

### **Other signs that the Third Temple is coming.**

The Restoration of Hurva Synagogue in Jerusalem.

*During the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, the Vilna Gaon, a Jewish Sage, prophesied that the Hurva synagogue in Jerusalem would be destroyed twice, and the third time it was rebuilt would be a sign that the Third Jewish Temple was to be rebuilt. The Hurva synagogue was rebuilt and dedicated in March of 2010.*

Foxes appearing at the Temple Wall.

The day before the 9<sup>th</sup> of Av in 2023, foxes were seen at the temple wall in Jerusalem. It had long been believed that the appearance of foxes at the temple would be a sign of the coming restoration of the Third Temple. This sighting was reported in the Jerusalem Post. Rabbi Shmuel Rabinowitz, the Rabbi of the Western Wall and the Holy Sites, referred to the photos of the foxes and commented, “One cannot refrain from crying at the site of the fulfillment of the prophecy of foxes walking on it.”

## **The Purpose of the Third Temple Concerning the Nations.**

The Temple is called a House of Prayer for all nations:

“And foreigners who bind themselves to the Lord to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant— these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a ‘house of prayer’ for all nations.” The Sovereign Lord declares — he who gathers the exiles of Israel: “I will gather still others to them besides those already gathered.” (Isaiah 56: 6-8).

God promises those foreigners who join this Third Temple House of Prayer a special place:

*“Those who choose what pleases me and hold fast to my covenant—to them I will give within **my temple** and its walls a memorial and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that will endure forever. And foreigners who bind themselves to the Lord to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord.”* (Isaiah 56:5-6).

God uses the word of the prophets to trigger, or set in motion, His Word on the earth. He reveals it first through His prophetic word.

*“Surely the Lord God does nothing unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets. A lion has roared! Who will not fear? The Lord God has spoken! Who can but prophesy?”* (Amos 3:7-8).

It is clear that God (Hashem) has set in motion, through the words of the prophets, the preparation for the rebuilding of the Third Temple. While there are obstructions to this rebuilding of the temple, it will surely come according to the Words of the Lord.

## **Five small cows (heifers) that rocked the world.**

The appearance of these five small cows (heifers) has rocked the world in the sense that their appearance signals for us the fact that prophecy is being fulfilled for the rebuilding of the Third Temple. They are a witness to what is coming. The building of this Third Temple will impact the world. Hashem declares that its existence will let all mankind know He is in the midst of Israel and this revelation will rock the world:

*“Then you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel: I am the Lord your God and there is no other. My people shall never be put to shame. It shall come to pass afterward that I shall pour out My Spirit on all flesh.” (Joel 2:27).*

This revelation leads to a worldwide awakening to know the Lord, and the Sons of Jacob, who have returned to the land of Israel. In this sense, the signs of what the Lord is showing mankind at this time are beginning to rock the world. Even the enemies of Israel are reacting to these signs and believe they have meaning. The rockets, the violence, and the politics will not stop what Hashem is calling forth for the Third Temple. Hashem is setting in place His prophetic Word for the coming Messianic Era.

# 'Russia and Iran Launch Strike on Tel Aviv': A Glimpse Into Chinese Disinfo on Israel (msn.com)

#bibleprophecy, #russia, #iran, #israel

Feb 14, 2024

Dozens of fake YouTube channels have pushed out hundreds of AI dubbed-videos about everything from the Gaza war to microchips - all with the goal of aiding Beijing, even at Israel's expense.

"Shock after Russia launches a surprise attack against Israel's capital, with a series of airstrikes on Tel Aviv, in a surprising act of solidarity with the Palestinians in Gaza," said a report posted online New Year's Eve.

Twenty-four hours later, a second video that included stock images that looked as if they were taken from a tourist video about Tel Aviv, claimed that it was actually "Iran and Russia" that had "launched an attack on Israel."

The reports were both 12 minutes long, and both were posted on the TechShow YouTube channel. They even said that Israel had issued an official statement after the "shocking surprise attack," saying that it "reserved the right to retaliate." The U.S. condemned the attack, "which was shocking the Middle East and the international community."

The videos and reports were, of course, completely false, part of a foreign influencing campaign that was exposed by the French newspaper Le Monde.

The campaign is called Shadow Play, and is part of a known and extensive network that was exposed by Australian researchers, who estimate it is operated to promote the interests of China.

The network, which has been active since 2022, includes at least 30 different YouTube channels which have posted over 4,500 clips that have garnered more than 120 million views.

The YouTube channels operate in English, French and Spanish and pose as real media outlets that cover security and foreign relations, as well as more niche topics like technology. The channels post long video reports, up to 15 minutes long, about an array of topics. However, all having one thing in common: they push out fake news or heavily biased reports meant to further Beijing's interests.

According to Le Monde, most of these videos were likely made using AI. They include automatically-generated captions and translations, with random photos taken off the internet, just like clips with voiceover that are common on TikTok.

According to the research, some content was created through outsourcing, using the online freelance service Fiverr. Anonymous accounts used the service to order graphics for the campaign.

Alongside geopolitical themes, the pro-Chinese campaign focuses mainly on China's economic interests, especially ones relating to technology. A fictitious online influencer, a so-called avatar named Sophie Decrypte, had more than fifty thousand followers on YouTube, and videos it posted had over two million views and focused about tech.

With an automatically-generated mechanical voiceover in English, Sophie reveals "a Chinese breakthrough that is fascinating the world, leaving the U.S. in shock!" It adds that "the U.S. is frightened by the rise of Chinese technology."

The fictitious reports about the Russian surprise attack on Israel were published on a channel which ostensibly specializes in English-language technology news often praising, in an exaggerated and almost comical way, the economic successes of China as opposed to the U.S., mainly in the field of microprocessors.

These microchips are vital for developing the huge computational power required for AI. They are considered the core of advanced technologies today. Their development has become one of the leading strategic issue in the economic battles between the U.S. and China, and the focus of a trade war between the two superpowers, after Washington started imposing sanctions on companies helping Beijing achieve an advantage in this important technological race.

The general tone of the Chinese operation is very different from the influence and disinformation campaigns launched in the past and attributed to Russia.

While the Kremlin's propaganda operations tend to exploit fears and societal rifts through the distortion of facts, the Chinese operation seems relatively naive. Even though it is replete with fake news, its goal is mainly to praise China and its allies like Russia and Iran while belittling their rivals.

Haaretz asked Israeli social media researchers to examine the Le Monde findings, and they then discovered further fictitious channels belonging to the same cluster of fake channels. One of them copied the video showing Tel Aviv being bombed, but with French captions replete with spelling mistakes.

Most of the videos shown on other channels were promoting reports that advanced the Chinese narrative and praised its geopolitical allies. Many of them lauded Russia and Iran and their involvement in global conflicts ("Iran's involvement in the Middle East is

significant"). The tension in the Red Sea following Houthi attacks on maritime traffic was used to lambaste the U.S.

Some channels tried to pass as military news outlets, in some cases actually directly clashing with Israel, such as a video claiming that China had decided to prohibit the import of drones from Israel, amid a growing global demand for advanced drones, with competition between manufacturers in Israel and China.

The videos appear as attempts to combat a business competitor, and perhaps a response to Israel's conduct, after, under American pressure and concerns by the defense establishment, it reduced its economic and technological ties with China in recent years.

The pro-Chinese operation at Israel's expense demonstrates how Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's efforts to create closer ties with U.S. rivals have failed to yield results during the war.

While Netanyahu has boasted his ties to Putin, Russia has been outspoken against Israel since the start of the war in Gaza, also deploying an influence campaign named "Operation Doppelgänger" that also exploits the fighting in Gaza to promote the Russian narrative about its invasion of Ukraine.

And while Netanyahu had planned a visit to Beijing last year in what his office hinted was a "signal to Biden," who reportedly avoided inviting him for a visit to the White House, China and its proxies have stood with Iran in the diplomatic and digital arenas since Hamas' October 7 attack.

For example, the channel that reported on the Russian "surprise attack" on Tel Aviv published a video showing "The new Iranian weapons that are shocking Israel." The phrase "shocking" appears in almost all Chinese videos, on all channels and in all languages, regardless of the subject of the "reports."

It's not about official state interests and geopolitical influence. The Chinese-owned platform TikTok has emerged as what some researchers say is the most anti-Israel of all social media platforms.

TikTok has also emerged as being completely incapable of taking action and in the first weeks of the war, the social network was second only to Russian Telegram in distributing Hamas propaganda content, pro-Palestinian videos and antisemitic videos, while TikTok's algorithm disproportionately promoted viral content from the Arab world among western audiences, according to researchers.

Israel's attempts to work with and lobby the Chinese platform failed, and although some videos inciting to terrorism were eventually removed at the request of the Justice Ministry, its ability to obtain cooperation from TikTok is nothing like the cooperation Israel has with the American networks such as Facebook and Google, sources say.



After the war in Gaza started, reports showed that China also played a role in maintaining the economic infrastructure through which Hamas raises funds and smuggles money.

Reports by the Israeli Blockchain intelligence firm WhiteStream showed that a Chinese-owned digital currency exchange platforms that operate outside international banking systems make it possible for Hamas operatives to exchange and transfer funds using so-called cryptocurrencies, thus bypassing international sanctions.

The firm has also found Hamas also used Iranian trading platforms that also utilize the Chinese infrastructure, underscoring the role Beijing's financial warfare against the U.S. helps create the conditions needed so support illegal activities such as Hamas'.

The Le Monde journalists who uncovered the various influence channels brought the campaign to the attention of the department in charge of fighting misinformation and fake activities at Alphabet, the parent company of Google and YouTube. The company removed 19 channels, including the channel that published the video of the Russian attack on Tel Aviv. Since then, others have also been removed.

Many such channels however remain active – among them channels identified by Israeli researchers, highlighting issues with YouTube's commitment and efforts to crack down on disinformation.

# [Antony Blinken Accuses Israel of Trying to 'Dehumanize' Palestinians \(breitbart.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #blinken, #israel, #palestinians

Feb 7, 2024

JERUSALEM, Israel — U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken made the shocking accusation late Wednesday night during a press briefing in Israel's capital that Israel is “dehumaniz[ing]” Palestinians in Gaza because of the humanitarian toll of the war in Gaza.

“Israelis were dehumanized in the most horrific way on October 7th,” Blinken said. “The hostages have been demonized every day since. But that cannot be a license to dehumanize others.” He did not provide any evidence that Israel has been “dehumanizing” Palestinians, but simply seemed to suggest that the suffering of Palestinian civilians who “had nothing to do with the attacks of October 7th” was a form of dehumanization. “We cannot, we must not, lose sight of our common humanity,” Blinken declared.

The accusation — which resonates with claims made by Israel's critics and enemies, including at the International Court of Justice at The Hague — was part of Blinken's prepared text; it was not a gaffe or an off-the-cuff remarks made in the heat of the moment.

Blinken spoke about Hamas's response Wednesday to a U.S.-backed proposal to free the remaining Israeli hostages in return for a pause in the war. Hamas reportedly demanded a permanent ceasefire and the release of thousands of Palestinian terrorists.

He also spoke in the wake of a public [statement](#), in Hebrew and then in English, by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that appeared not only to reject Hamas's later demands, but to push back against the Biden administration's apparent willingness to tolerate Hamas's survival.

The Secretary of State appears to have shaped his response directly in reaction to Netanyahu: the Secretary of State was more than an hour late for his own press conference, keeping reporters waiting for him until well after ten o'clock at night, local time.

Blinken said that while there were some clear “non-starters” in the Hamas counter-offer, he hoped that negotiations would move toward a deal. He also said that the U.S. still shared the goal of making sure that “October 7th never happens again” — though that barely masked a subtle shift away from the goal of destroying Hamas's military and governing capabilities, suggesting that the Biden administration believes Hamas

can be allowed to survive and that it can be convinced, through diplomacy, not to attack.

Blinken stressed the need for Israel to provide more humanitarian aid to Gaza, and to lower the death toll there. “We urge Israel to do more to help civilians, knowing full well that it faces an enemy that would never hold itself to those standards.” He did not address the problem that some 50% to 60% of all humanitarian aid that enters Israel is [thought](#) to be seized by Hamas for itself.

Blinken’s trip thus far has included Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Qatar, and will include a visit to the West Bank on Thursday.

Asked about Netanyahu’s rejection of a Palestinian state as an outcome of the war, Blinken denied that the White House’s vision for the region was collapsing.

He argued that a Palestinian state had been a prerequisite for peace between Israel and Saudi Arabia before the war, and that it was also a prerequisite following the war, but that peace was still possible.

However, there were [reports](#) before the war that a Palestinian state was a White House demand, not a Saudi one.

Reacting in real time to Blinken’s remarks, conservative radio host Mark Levin called Blinken a “traitor” to the United States.

Levin noted that Blinken was “attacking the only country” in the Middle East that has stood up to America’s enemy, Iran.

# [Biden gives Israel 45 days to submit report on int'l law violations - The Jerusalem Post \(jpost.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #biden, #israel, #violations

Feb 9, 2024

Administration officials have repeated that one innocent life killed is too many, but have stopped short of implying that Israel is in violation of international law.

President [Joe Biden](#) issued a memorandum on Thursday night asking countries receiving US military funding to prove they're following international humanitarian and human rights laws.

The timing of the memorandum coincides with President Biden's unscheduled press conference where he took reporters' questions on the Israel-Hamas war, saying Israel's response is "[over the top](#)."

For weeks now, reporters have pressed both the White House and State Department on their ability to assess if Israel is following international law as there have been no formal assessment procedures in place.

Administration officials have repeated that one innocent life killed is too many, but have stopped short of implying that Israel is in violation of international law.

Members of Congress raised concern over Israel's human rights violations, *The Post* previously reported.

Led by Rep. [Rashida Tlaib](#) (D-MI), several progressive Democratic members issued a letter to Biden and the Government Accountability Office requesting an assessment of the State Department's compliance with Leahy Laws and Conventional Arms Transfer policies regarding security assistance to the Israeli government

"We write today regarding your administration's ongoing weapons transfers to the Israeli government despite considerable evidence that these transfers are flagrantly violating American and international law and being used in the commission of war crimes," the letter to Biden said.

The letter cites a January 5 comment from White House National Security spokesman John Kirby in which he said he wasn't aware of any assessments being done by the US government to analyze Israel's compliance with international law.

Biden's memorandum requires states receiving military aid to provide the State Department and Congress with thorough reports every fiscal year with details of any

alleged law violations, explanations for military actions in question, and the process taken to assess legality in making those decisions.

For countries actively involved in armed conflict, the memorandum requires the first assessment to be submitted within 45 days of Feb. 8. If not received within that time frame, then the transfer of defense articles and services will be paused until “required assurances are obtained.”

“In order to effectively implement certain obligations under United States law, the United States must maintain an appropriate understanding of foreign partners' adherence to international law, including, as applicable, international human rights law and international humanitarian law,” the memorandum says.

If reports of violations are found credible, defense articles or services could be suspended.

According to the memorandum, “As a matter of international law, the United States looks to the law of state responsibility and United States partners' compliance with international humanitarian law in assessing the lawfulness of United States military assistance to, and joint operations with, military partners.”

At a news briefing Friday, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said the memorandum emerged after meetings with Congress.

"I want to be clear: there are no new standards in this memo, we are not imposing new standards for military aid, that is not what is in this memo," Jean-Pierre said. "Instead we are spelling out publicly the existing standards by international law including the law of armed conflict."

What is new, Jean-Pierre said, is the annual report that will be given to Congress.

Jean-Pierre said this is in line with conversations the White House had with congressional members as they try to work together in a way that makes sense and moves the ball forward.

These are things that already exist that are now put in writing, Jean-Pierre said.

The White House briefed Israel on this memo and they reiterated their willingness to provide these types of assurances, Jean-Pierre says.

# [Stabbed in the Back: Biden Aide tells Muslims No 'Confidence' in Israeli Government \(breitbart.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #biden, #israel, #muslim-americans

Feb 9, 2024

A senior aide to President Joe Biden told Arab- and Muslim-Americans in Dearborn, Michigan, this week that the administration had no “confidence” in Israel’s government to agree to a Palestinian state, and that the U.S. had regrets about the war in Gaza.

Dearborn has been a hotbed of radicalism and open [support](#) for the Hamas terrorists who launched the war with a brutal attack October 7 that killed roughly 1,200 Israelis. But Arab- and Muslim-American votes are important in the swing state of Michigan.

Therefore the Biden campaign and the Biden administration — blurring the line between partisan politics and foreign policy that it pretends to uphold elsewhere — have tried to appease Arab and Muslim voters in Michigan with increasingly anti-Israel stances.

The *New York Times* [reported](#) Friday that Jon Finer, the Deputy National Security Advisor to President Biden, was sent to meet leaders in Dearborn.

He expressed regrets for “missteps” in the administration’s support for Israel, whose leaders he trashed:

*During the meeting on Thursday with Arab American political leaders in Dearborn, Mich., Mr. Finer said, “We are very well aware that we have missteps in the course of responding to this crisis since Oct. 7,” according to a recording of the gathering obtained by The New York Times. A National Security Council official confirmed the recording was authentic.*

*Mr. Finer and several other senior Biden administration officials, including Samantha Power, the administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, traveled to Dearborn on Thursday for a series of meetings, including the one in which Mr. Finer’s comments were recorded.*

*“We will have to do things for Saudi Arabia that will be very unpopular in this country and in our Congress,” Mr. Finer said. “Will Israel be willing to do the hard thing that’s going to be required of them, which is meaningful steps for the Palestinians on the question of two states? I don’t know if the answer to that is yes. I do not have any confidence in this current government of Israel.”*

The Biden administration sought to undermine Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu from the moment he was elected in 2022, largely because of Netanyahu's steadfast opposition to President Barack Obama and Biden in their efforts to appease Iran.

Biden repaired relations with Netanyahu in mid-2023 because he wanted to encourage a Saudi-Israeli peace deal, which had been stalled by Biden's 2020 election, as he headed into a 2024 reelection campaign without any real foreign policy accomplishments.

In the weeks after the October 7 attack, Biden showed solidarity with Israel, and sold arms and ammunition to Israel to resupply Israeli forces. He also sent two U.S. aircraft carriers to the eastern Mediterranean to discourage Iran from widening the war.

But as Biden has faced a backlash from Arab- and Muslim-American voters, as well as young and "progressive" voters who are pushing an anti-Israel agenda within the Democratic Party, Biden has become more openly critical of Israel, and hostile at times.

The Biden administration is pushing for a Palestinian state as an outcome of the war — a stance that would reward Hamas terror, and that alarms Israelis, who have [shifted](#) dramatically from supporting a Palestinian state ten years ago to opposing one today.

Israelis have also been shocked by recent criticism from Biden and Secretary of State Antony Blinken. Biden [said](#) Thursday that Israel's response to Hamas had been "over the top," and Blinken [said](#) Wednesday Israel had been "dehumaniz[ing]" Palestinians.

The Biden administration has been reluctant to tell Arab- and Muslim-American voters that their support for Hamas against Israel is contrary to American interests and values, and that it helps to prolong the conflict by encouraging Palestinian terror.

There is no evidence that Biden's effort at appeasing these voters is encouraging them to renew their support for him — but the policies and rhetoric now being pushed by the White House could do real damage to Israel's security as it fights for its survival.



# [Biden Nearing a ‘Breach’ with Netanyahu Over Gaza War: Report \(yahoo.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #biden, #israel, #netanyahu

Feb 11, 2024

President [Joe Biden](#) is “warming” to the idea of being more publicly critical of Israeli Prime Minister [Benjamin Netanyahu](#) as his country’s assault on Gaza continues unabated, [The Washington Post reported](#).

The paper reported that Biden is becoming increasingly frustrated with Netanyahu, citing interviews with multiple sources familiar with internal White House discussions. Per the *Post*, the president and his aides are “no longer viewing Netanyahu as a productive partner who can be influenced even in private.”

Biden and the prime minister have known each other for more than four decades, and the president has long been a supporter of Israel, but Biden recently signaled a potential shift in his view of Israel’s military actions when he said last week that the “conduct of [Israel’s] response” in Gaza was “over the top.”

“A lot of innocent people are starving,” Biden said. “A lot of innocent people are in trouble and they’re dying. And it’s got to stop.”

One official told the *Post* that the issue of humanitarian aid to Gaza is “constantly on [Biden’s] mind.” A [United Nations report found](#) that one in four Gazans are starving due to the war. U.N. aid agency UNRWA [recently said](#) Israel is preventing a month’s worth of food aid for 1.1 million Palestinians from entering the Gaza Strip.

The White House later clarified Biden’s “over the top” remarks, saying that “nothing has changed” in the administration’s messaging about the war.

Biden’s “position hasn’t changed. I don’t think his messaging has changed. We don’t think his messaging has [changed]. He doesn’t believe his messaging has changed,” White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre [clarified](#) the next day during a briefing.

But behind the scenes, the White House is becoming increasingly frustrated with Netanyahu, sources told the paper, especially in light of Israel’s plans for a ground invasion of Rafah, a city on Gaza’s southern border with Egypt, where upwards of 1.5 million Gazans have fled and are now living in makeshift tents. Before the war, 280,000 people lived in Rafah.



“They’re already living in tents and not getting enough food and water and you’re saying go somewhere else,” an outside adviser to the White House told the *Washington Post*. “Where? How are they supposed to get there?”

In an interview Sunday on ABC’s *This Week*, Netanyahu defended his direction for the evacuation of Rafah. “Those who say that under no circumstances should we enter Rafah are basically saying ‘lose the war,’” he said.

*Prime Minister Netanyahu defends his direction for Israeli Defense Forces to evacuate civilians out of Rafah ahead of ground invasion: “Those who say that under no circumstances should we enter Rafah are basically saying ‘lose the war.”* <https://t.co/fqz18NLoo3> [pic.twitter.com/zpMhdkm97i](https://pic.twitter.com/zpMhdkm97i)

— *This Week (@ThisWeekABC)* [February 11, 2024](#)

Secretary of State Antony Blinken was in Israel last week participating in negotiations for a ceasefire deal, but Netanyahu [rejected](#) an offer from Hamas to release the hostages and engage in a ceasefire, calling the deal “delusional.”

“Continued military pressure is a necessary condition for the release of the hostages,” Netanyahu said.

“There are clearly nonstarters in what (Hamas has) put forward,” Blinken said of the offer. “But we also see space in what came back to pursue negotiations, to see if we can get to an agreement. That’s what we intend to do.”

Israel’s military operations in Gaza since Oct. 7 have killed more than 28,000 Palestinians and injured upwards of 67,000, [according to the Gaza Health Ministry](#). Over the weekend, Israel killed at least 44 Palestinians [in Rafah](#) alone, including more than a dozen children.

Even if Biden sharpens his rhetoric around the war, it will make little substantive difference as long as the U.S. is funding Israel’s military efforts, Ben Rhodes, former president Barack Obama’s deputy national security adviser, told the paper. Last week, the Senate advanced a [\\$95 billion aid package](#) that included \$35 billion in aid for Israel. It will now head to the House.

“So long as you are supporting Netanyahu’s military operation in Gaza without condition, it makes absolutely no difference how much you turn the dial in your comments. Fundamentally, you have to make a decision not to give Bibi a blank check of support,” Rhodes said, referring to Netanyahu as “Bibi,” a common nickname for the prime minister.

# [US, Arabs 'rushing' plan to establish Palestinian state - JNS.org](#)

#bibleprophecy, #blinken, #arabs, #palestinian state

Feb 15, 2024

The proposal depends on a hostage deal that would include a pause in fighting in Gaza.

The Biden administration is preparing to make a major push for Palestinian statehood if a Gaza ceasefire agreement being negotiated in Cairo this week takes effect.

According to *The Washington Post*, the United States and its Arab partners are “rushing” to finalize the plan to establish a Palestinian state—a plan that could be announced in the next few weeks with hopes that a deal to release the remaining 134 hostages held by Hamas terrorists in Gaza in exchange for a six-week pause in fighting takes effect before Ramadan, which begins on March 10, give or take a day.

Negotiations in [Cairo](#) on a hostage-for-ceasefire deal have been extended until Friday. However, only lower-level officials are participating after Tuesday’s initial summit, which included high-ranking representatives from Egypt, Israel, Qatar and the United States.

There is an urgency to reach an agreement because Jerusalem is readying for a major offensive in [Rafah](#), the last Hamas stronghold in the Gaza Strip. While Israel is working on an evacuation plan for the 1.5 million civilians sheltered in the city ahead of the battle, fears are mounting in Western capitals about the toll the fighting could take on the noncombatant population.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday dismissed reports of progress in the Cairo talks, with his office issuing a statement saying that Jerusalem did not receive any new proposal from Hamas on releasing the hostages and that the premier “insists that Israel will not give in to Hamas’s delusional demands.”

Jerusalem’s goals in the war, which have not changed, are to destroy Hamas in Gaza, free the hostages and ensure that the territory never threatens Israel again. Hamas initiated the war on Oct. 7 when thousands of terrorists broke across the border, murdering 1,200 men, women and children, wounding thousands more and kidnapping 253 people.

Netanyahu emphasized the importance of the Gaza military campaign on Wednesday evening and reiterated Jerusalem’s position on the Cairo talks.

“This week we freed two of our hostages in a brilliant military operation. As of now we have freed 112 of our hostages in a combination of strong military pressure and tough

negotiations. This is also the key to freeing more of our hostages: Strong military pressure and very tough negotiations,” the prime minister said.

“Indeed, I insist that Hamas drop its delusional demands. When they do so, we will be able to move forward,” he continued.

In addition to the United States, the participants planning the pathway to a [Palestinian state](#) are Egypt, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and the Palestinians. Notably, Israel is not involved in these discussions, according to the *Post*.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken has been pushing hard for the Palestinian statehood plan, despite it reportedly not being a major obstacle to the Abraham Accords or an Israeli-Saudi detente before the Oct. 7 attacks.

The American diplomat focused on Palestinian statehood during his latest Middle East swing, saying in Doha that steps were being taken for “a practical, timebound, irreversible path to a Palestinian state living side-by-side in peace with Israel.” The issue was also a focus of discussions at the White House between President Joe [Biden](#) and Jordan’s King Abdullah II.

U.S. officials told the *Post* that actions under consideration include a unilateral recognition of a Palestinian state by Washington at the start of the process. British Foreign Secretary David Cameron has also expressed interest in early recognition of a Palestinian state.

Other issues reportedly being discussed by the United States and Arab countries are the permanent evacuation of many Israeli communities in Judea and Samaria and a Palestinian capital in eastern Jerusalem. Also being discussed is the reconstruction of Gaza after the war and uniting Gaza and the Palestinian areas of Judea and Samaria under one form of governance and security mechanism.

The Americans and Arabs are looking to discuss their plans with European leaders during policy meetings at the 60th Munich Security Conference, which kicks off Friday.

There is widespread opposition to the establishment of a Palestinian state in Israel, particularly after the Oct. 7 massacre, which many see as a reward for the Hamas terrorist attack and an incentive to commit more atrocities.

A February [survey](#) found that more than half of the Israeli public opposes the creation of a Palestinian state as part of a deal that would end the war against Hamas and normalize relations between Jerusalem and Riyadh.

According to another survey, published in January, when Israelis were asked whether they support the creation of a Palestinian state alongside Israel, 66% of Jewish respondents said they opposed such a move, while 27% expressed support for the creation of a “Palestine.”

This opposition to a Palestinian state extends to the Israeli leadership; Netanyahu has been a longtime vocal opponent of the idea.

“Everybody who talks about a two-state solution—well, I ask, what do you mean by that? Should the Palestinians have an army? ... Should they continue to educate their children for terrorism and annihilation? Of course, I say, of course not,” the premier told *ABC News* in an interview that aired on Sunday.

“The most important power that has to remain in Israel’s hands is overriding security control in the area west of the Jordan [River],” he stressed.

Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich on Thursday rejected the reported U.S.-Arab plan to recognize a Palestinian state in the next few weeks.

“We will in no way agree to this plan, which actually says that the Palestinians deserve a reward for the terrible massacre they did to us: a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital,” tweeted Smotrich, the head of the Religious Zionism Party.

“The message is that it pays very well to massacre Israeli citizens,” he continued. “A Palestinian state is an existential threat to the State of Israel, as was proven on Oct. 7. Kfar Saba will not be Kfar Aza!” he said, in reference to the central Israeli city of Kfar Saba, which would abut the border of a theoretical Palestinian state in Judea and Samaria just as Kibbutz Kfar Aza, one of the hardest-hit communities on Oct. 7, is close to the Gaza border.

“Today, at the meeting of the political and security cabinet, I will demand a clear and unequivocal decision stating that Israel opposes the establishment of a Palestinian state and the imposition of sanctions on over half a million settlers. I expect clear support from Prime Minister Netanyahu, Benny Gantz, Gadi Eizenkot and all the ministers,” Smotrich said.

Diaspora Affairs Minister Amichai [Chikli](#) also blasted the reported U.S. plan to recognize a Palestinian state, telling *Army Radio* on Thursday that “if this is the American vision, we need to resist it and threaten them with our own unilateral steps, like canceling the Oslo Accords.”

Meanwhile, tensions are boiling over between Netanyahu and Biden over Israel’s pending Rafah military offensive and the overall direction of the Gaza campaign, *The Wall Street Journal* reported on Wednesday.

While Biden has made public statements criticizing Israel’s conduct in the war, including calling it “over the top,” his administration has no intention to slow down arms sales to the Jewish state, according to the *Journal*.

The two leaders held a “tense” phone call on Sunday over the looming Rafah invasion, and in late December Biden reportedly abruptly ended a call with Netanyahu, declaring

the conversation “over” and hanging up. U.S. and Israeli officials said that Biden was angry during the Dec. 28 call and almost yelled during a restive exchange about civilian casualties and Washington wanting to shift the war to a more targeted phase.

Netanyahu and Biden have spoken 18 times by phone since the start of the war.

Furthermore, the *Journal* reported, citing U.S. officials, last month the [Biden administration](#) was considering enacting a package that would have reversed two Trump-era policies: labeling Israeli-made produce across the Green Line as “Made in Israel” and another that stated that the United States does not see Israeli communities in Judea and Samaria as violating international law.

Washington also considered sanctioning Smotrich and Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, head of the Otzma Yehudit Party.

While the Biden administration decided against these measures, it did end up sanctioning four Israelis residing in Judea and Samaria.

U.S. officials also said that the State Department had opened an investigation into Israeli bombings in Gaza in which civilians were killed. The State Department is also investigating whether Israel used white phosphorous in Lebanon to determine if the IDF illegally used American missiles and bombs.

# Antisemitic incidents in January rose 171% globally from previous year - Israel365 News

#bibleprophecy, #anti-semitism, #hate, #global

Feb 8, 2024

Antisemitic incidents in January rose 171% globally from previous year

Researchers found an average rate of 15.1 events a day.

The Combat Antisemitism Movement (CAM) has [released](#) its monthly [report](#) of antisemitic incidents, finding 468 running across a spectrum of actions and motives.

Comparing last month's total to January 2023, CAM reports an increase of 171%, making a daily average of 15.1.

The largest share of the incidents (65.3%) were Israel-related with 16.25% as expressions of "classical" antisemitism; 8.97% as Islamist in motivation; and the rest as Holocaust denial, minimization, distortion or unattributable categories.

Types of incidents included vandalism (68 incidents), physical threats (52) and the majority—329, or 70%—as hate speech.

The organization cited such examples as a man who tried to stab Jews at a kosher supermarket in London and anti-Israel protesters yelling "shame on you" at pediatric cancer patients whose place of treatment had received a donation from a Jew.

CAM also noted that a neo-Nazi podcaster had said Jews should be "absolutely annihilated" and that Turkey, which has come out strongly against Israel over its war with Hamas in Gaza, had seen an uptick in antisemitic incidents.



# [Nearly 500 mudslides in California as deadly storm damage may reach \\$11 billion \(accuweather.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #california, #mudslides, #storm damage

Feb 7, 2024

An atmospheric river unleashed record rainfall in California, causing over 100 mudslides, while winds gusted to 160 mph in the mountains.

By Jesse Ferrell, AccuWeather meteorologist and senior weather editor

Published Feb 5, 2024 10:38 AM EST | Updated Feb 7, 2024 11:14 AM EST

From floods and mudslides in Southern California to heavy snow and avalanches in Nevada, the destructive effects of an atmospheric river continued on Feb. 6.

A deadly and extreme atmospheric river overtook California Saturday and remained over the southern part of the state through Tuesday. The storm caused record rainfall, heavy snow and high winds, which knocked out power to nearly a million people while snarling travel.

More than 475 mudslides or debris flows were reported and [at least nine people were killed by the storm](#), according to CNN.

Firefighters rescue a dog from a homeless encampment that became surrounded by floodwater in the Santa Ana River during a rainstorm, Monday, Feb. 5, 2024, in San Bernardino, Calif. (AP Photo/Ethan Swope)

AccuWeather estimates the preliminary total damage and economic loss from the intense storms and record rainfall in California this week will be between \$9 billion and \$11 billion. The storm is still impacting the most heavily populated part of the state and has caused damage to homes and businesses in highly developed and well-populated areas, including some of the most expensive neighborhoods in the state.

This is a preliminary estimate, as the storm effects are continuing to be felt and some areas of the state have not yet reported complete information about damage, injuries, and other impacts.

On Sunday, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency for eight California counties, including Los Angeles and San Diego. On Sunday and Monday, downtown Los Angeles recorded 7.03 inches of rain -- roughly half of that city's historical average annual rainfall. It was the highest two-day rainfall ever recorded in February and the

third-wettest two days since records began nearly 150 years ago. By Tuesday evening, L.A. had counted 13.95" for their rainfall season total - surpassing their historical average.

Northwest of downtown, several stations reported more than a foot of rain as of Tuesday evening.

Hurricane-force winds plagued the mountains, including the 10,820-foot peak of Ward Mountain, where a gust of 162 mph was clocked. In 2017, Ward Mountain set the state wind gust record of 199 mph. Other impressive wind gusts reported on Sunday included 148 mph at Palisades Tahoe and 125 mph at Mammoth Mountain.

In the higher elevations of the Sierra Nevada, 3-6 feet of snow fell, causing road closures, avalanches and blizzard conditions.

At lower elevations, winds were not as extreme but were unusually high across a wide area Monday, felling trees and knocking out power to nearly 900,000 customers Sunday evening, according to [PowerOutage.US](https://www.poweroutage.us/).

Near the coast, San Francisco airport reported 67-mph gusts while Sacramento topped out at 59 mph.



# [Brazil Has a Dengue Emergency, Portending a Health Crisis for the Americas \(yahoo.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #dengue, #brazil, #disease

Feb 11, 2024

Brazil is experiencing an enormous outbreak of dengue fever, the sometimes fatal mosquito-borne disease, and public health experts say it is a harbinger of a coming surge in cases in the Americas, including Puerto Rico.

Brazil's Health Ministry warns that it expects more than 4.2 million cases this year, outstripping the 4.1 million cases the Pan American Health Organization recorded for all 42 countries in the region last year.

Brazil was due for a bad dengue year — numbers of cases of the virus typically rise and fall on a roughly four-year cycle — but experts say a number of factors, including El Niño and climate change, have significantly amplified the problem this year.

“The record heat in the country and the above-average rainfall since last year, even before the summer, have increased the number of mosquito breeding sites in Brazil, even in regions that had few cases of the disease,” Brazilian Health Minister Nísia Trindade said.

Dengue case numbers have already soared in Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay in the past few months, during the Southern Hemisphere summer, and the virus will move up through the continents with the seasons.

“When we see waves in one country, we will generally see waves in other countries; that's how interconnected we are,” said Dr. Albert Ko, an expert on dengue in Brazil and a professor of public health at Yale University.

The World Health Organization has warned that dengue is rapidly becoming an urgent global health problem, with a record number of cases last year and outbreaks in places, such as France, that have historically never reported the disease.

In the United States, Dr. Gabriela Paz-Bailey, chief of the dengue branch at the division of vector-borne diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said that she expected high rates of dengue infection in Puerto Rico this year and that there would be more cases in the continental United States as well, especially in Florida, as well as in Texas, Arizona and Southern California.

Dengue is spread by *Aedes aegypti*, a species of mosquito that is becoming established in new regions, including warmer, wetter parts of the United States, where it had never been seen until the past few years.

Cases in the United States are still expected to be relatively few this year — in the hundreds, not millions — because of the prevalence of air conditioning and window screens. But Paz-Bailey warned: “When you’re looking at trends in numbers of cases in the Americas, it’s scary. It’s been increasing consistently.”

Florida reported its highest number of locally acquired cases last year, 168, and California reported its first such cases.

Three-quarters of people who are infected with dengue don’t have any symptoms at all, and among those who do, most cases will resemble only a mild flu. But some dengue infections are serious, producing headaches, vomiting, high fever and the aching joint pain that gives the disease the nickname “breakbone fever.” A bad dengue case can leave a person debilitated for weeks.

And about 5% of people who become sick will progress to what’s called severe dengue, which causes plasma, the protein-rich fluid component of blood, to leak out of blood vessels. Some patients may go into shock, causing organ failure.

Severe dengue has a mortality rate of 2% to 5% in people whose symptoms are treated with blood transfusions and intravenous fluids. When left untreated, however, the mortality rate is 15%.

In Brazil, state governments are setting up emergency centers to test people for dengue and treat them. The city of Rio de Janeiro declared a public health emergency over dengue Monday, days before the start of the annual celebration of Carnival, which brings tens of thousands of people to outdoor parties through the days and nights.

High numbers of cases are being reported in the southernmost states of Brazil, Trindade said, which are typically much cooler than Rio and the states in the center and the north. People in those areas will have little immunity to the disease from prior exposure.

Dengue comes in four serotypes, which are like virus cousins. Previous infection with one offers only short-term protection against infection with another, and a person who has had one serotype of dengue in the past is at higher risk of developing severe dengue from infection with another serotype.

“Right now you have serotypes circulating in Brazil that have not circulated in 20 years,” said Dr. Ernesto Marques, an associate professor of infectious diseases and microbiology at the University of Pittsburgh.

Brazil has started an emergency campaign to immunize children in areas with the highest rates or risk of dengue transmission, using a two-dose vaccine called Qdenga that is made by the Takeda Pharmaceutical Co. of Japan. Brazil bought 5.2 million doses for delivery this year, plus 9 million more for delivery in 2025, and the company donated an additional 1.3 million, which effectively locks up most of the supply of Qdenga globally. A company spokesperson said Takeda is working on a plan to increase supply, focusing on delivery to high-prevalence countries.

But even so, that is enough to cover less than 10% of the Brazilian population over two years. The only good news about dengue in Brazil at the moment is the publication of clinical trial results for a new vaccine tested by public health research center Instituto Butantan in São Paulo. That vaccine requires just one shot, and the trial found that it protected 80% of those vaccinated against developing dengue virus disease. The research center will ask the Brazilian government to approve the vaccine, and it has facilities to produce it, aiming to start delivering shots in 2025.

For this outbreak, it's too late for vaccination to help much, and there are few other ways for the public health authorities to slow it down.

“Insecticide resistance really limits what you can do in terms of controlling the mosquito population, and insecticide resistance is widespread,” Paz-Bailey said. “What you can do is ensure that people have access to clinical management and that clinicians know what to do.”

Medical centers in Brazil are setting up extra beds for people with severe dengue, hoping to prevent the kind of overwhelming of health systems that occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic and to prevent dengue deaths.

“The old paradigm of dengue most affecting children is not the case in Brazil — you have to think about the elderly, who are very vulnerable,” Ko said. It will be important for both clinicians and the public to get the message to test for dengue at the first sign of symptoms in both children and older people, he said.

“Any educated guess was that this would be a bad year,” Marques said, “but now we know how bad. It's going to be very, very bad.”

# [Taylor Swift: "I'm a Christian" and People With Real "Christian Values" Support Abortion - LifeNews.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #taylor swift, #abortion, #christian

Feb 4, 2024

Taylor Swift seems to believe that she can be a Christian and support the killing of unborn babies in abortions.

In a new Netflix documentary about her life, "Miss Americana," Swift insisted that she is a Christian – even though she promotes political causes that go against Christian teachings, [CBN News reports](#).

The celebrity has been increasingly vocal about her political beliefs over the past several years. In August, [she told The Guardian that she supports legalized abortion](#). "[Obviously, I'm pro-choice](#)," Swift said.

A year earlier, she endorsed Democrat Phil Bredesen in the Tennessee Senate race against Republican Marsha Blackburn, a leading pro-life advocate. Blackburn won anyway and continues to be a strong voice for life in the U.S. Senate.

In the new documentary, Swift talked about that moment when she decided to become more vocal politically.

According to CBN:

*One clip from the film shows Swift trying to explain what led her to speak out on her political beliefs, particularly her endorsement of Democrat Phil Bredesen in the 2018 Senate race against pro-life Republican Marsha Blackburn.*

*"This was a situation where, from a humanity perspective and from what my moral compass was telling me I needed to do, I knew I was right, and I really didn't care about repercussions," Swift said.*

*The excerpt depicts Swift arguing with her parents and publicist over whether to post social media messages regarding her entry into politics and the backlash it may cause.*

Swift said Blackburn's pro-life beliefs disgusted her.

"It's really basic human rights, and it's right and wrong at this point, and I can't see another commercial and see Marsha Blackburn disguising these policies behind the words "Tennessee Christian values,"" she said in the Netflix special. "Those aren't

Tennessee Christian values. I live in Tennessee. I'm a Christian. That's not what we stand for."

Basic human rights should include rights for every human, including babies in the womb. But Swift does not believe in those rights, though she claims to be a Christian. She may be misleading her impressionable young fans as well.

Christianity teaches that abortion is wrong because it kills an innocent human being, created in God's image. The Bible may not specifically mention the word "abortion," but it clearly does condemn the life-destroying practice. Even in ancient times, babies in the womb were viewed as valuable, as is evident in Luke 1:41. Jesus placed great value on children when others in society did not in Matthew 19:14, and Proverbs 6:16-17 states that one of the things God hates most is the shedding of innocent blood. One of the ten commandments prohibits murder.

Swift could do a lot of good with her huge, international platform. Instead, she has chosen to support abortion.

# [Zach Williams on his Prodigal Journey: Jesus Saved Me from Drugs & Alcohol - Michael Foust \(christianheadlines.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #zach Williams, #salvation, #prodigal

Feb 7, 2024

When Zach Williams reads the Parable of the Prodigal Son, he sees himself in the story.

Like that wayward son in the biblical story, Williams walked away from his family as a young adult, rejecting the faith and values that had been taught to him from birth. He got hooked on marijuana. He became a heavy drinker. He formed a Southern Rock band and toured the world. And then he realized he had a hole in his soul that could be filled only by Jesus.

Williams goes into detail about his road to redemption in a new book, *Rescue Story: Faith, Freedom, and Finding My Way Home*, that will be released Feb. 27 (Zondervan). The Christian artist has had a string of hits in recent years that have inspired millions, including five that reached No. 1 on the Billboard Christian Airplay [chart](#). (*Chain Breaker*, *Old Church Choir* and *There Was Jesus* -- a collaboration with Dolly Parton -- stayed atop the charts the longest.) He even won two Grammys.

“My dad was a worship leader. My mom sang in church,” Williams told ChristianHeadlines.

He experienced God in church as a youngster, he said. Other times, though, he would grow uncomfortable during services and go hide out in the restroom until it ended.

“When I turned 18, I ran as far and as fast as I could from that for a number of years,” he said of church. Williams became a partier.

“I was one of those guys that for about seven, eight years of my life, didn't go a day without smoking pot, and it's just how I lived and functioned,” he said. “My dad owned a construction business. And for me, it was the only thing that made going and getting on a construction site any fun. It was just like, ‘If I'm gonna do this, I've got to do this high all day long.’”

Williams then transitioned from marijuana to alcohol.

“I started drinking heavier. I was more of a binge kind of party guy,” he said.

His dependence on alcohol only worsened when he formed a Southern Rock band in 2007, Zach Williams and The Reformation. The group released two albums. It toured the U.S. and Europe. He was doing what he had always wanted to do -- sing music in the limelight. But he found the experience unfulfilling.

“You went on stage, you partied, you got off stage, you partied, you woke up in a different city on a different couch, a different hotel room,” Williams said. “...I got myself into a place where I was unhappy with it.

“For those two or three hours that I was up there, it was really the only time in my life that I felt full,” Williams said. “And then I would step off the stage and there would be this emptiness that I would search for the rest of the time. And I think that's where drugs and alcohol come in is because you're trying to numb a feeling that you only have for a few moments every day.”

The turning point in Williams' life and career came in 2012 when he was preparing for a tour. His wife gave him an ultimatum.

“I was leaving for Europe in 2012 and [my wife] said, ‘If you can't change for your family, [and] you come back worse than you are, we're done.’ And I didn't want to lose my wife and my kids. My wife was pregnant with our daughter,” he told ChristianHeadlines. “And I remember leaving for that trip, and we were about a week into it, and I was just so sick of being in those places. And I said, ‘God, if You're real, prove it, and if you can [then] I'll walk away from all this.’”

The next day, Williams felt God's presence.

“We were driving across Spain on an eight-hour bus ride, and our driver was scanning radio stations, and I hear a song by Big Daddy Weave come across the radio and it stops just long enough on the station for me to hear the lyrics.”

The song was Big Daddy Weave's *Redeemed*.

“And I got to my hotel room, and I looked that song up and I started listening to the lyrics. And in that moment, I realized that God saw me in a way that I would never see myself. And I called my wife and I told her about it. And I said, ‘When I get home, I'm done [with the band].’ And I came home from that tour, and I quit my band, and I gave my life to the Lord on June 10, 2012. We started going to this church and within a year, they asked me to help launch a campus. And I went to work for them and started leading worship. I started writing Christian music and got invited to Nashville to write some songs.”

During one of those songwriting expeditions in Nashville, he wrote *Chain Breaker*, which spent 15 weeks atop the CCM airplay charts in 2016.

Williams credits his parents for loving him through his prodigal years.

“I'm just grateful that I had parents who were an example of Christ -- that loved me through, that never judged me, that continued to pray and trust and believe that God had a plan for my life,” he said.

The theme of Williams' life and book, he said, is hope.

“My prayer is that people walk away from this and see just how much God loves us,” he said. “...If He could do it for me, He can do it for anybody.”