



SIGNS OF THE TIMES

News Articles for Episode 227

Israel moves closer to cashless society following latest legislation (israel365news.com)

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #cashless, #money

Aug 1, 2022

A new Israeli law will go into effect on Monday prohibiting cash payments of over \$1,760 (6,000 New Israeli Shekel NIS) in cash or bank checks for transactions between a person and a business. The ceiling for transfers between private individuals will be \$4,400 (NIS 15,000) instead of the current amount, almost \$14,700.

Since January 2019, Israeli businesses and consumers have been subject to limits on cash payments under the Law for the Reduction in the Use of Cash. Previously, the use of cash up to \$3,200 could be used in business deals. The ceiling for car transfers will remain the same at nearly \$14,700.

The reason behind the new law was explained by Tamar Bracha, who is in charge of executing the law on behalf of Israel's Tax Authority, to *The Media Line*.

"We want the public to reduce the use of cash money," Bracha said. "The goal is to reduce cash fluidity in the market, mainly because crime organizations tend to rely on cash. By limiting the use of it, criminal activity is much harder to carry out."

According to *Globes*, there will be a grace period of two years before the Tax Authority starts imposing fines on those who engage in cash deals of up to almost \$2,500.

Transactions with charitable institutions and trade with Palestinians from Judea and Samaria who are not Israeli citizens are exempt from the new law, but a detailed report to Israel's Tax Authority will be required.

Free-loan societies (gemachim), widely used in the Haredi community, will be exempt from the law in keeping with the demand of ultra-Orthodox lawmakers.

It is expected that in the future, laws will be passed prohibiting the stockpiling of more than NIS 200,000 shekels (USD 58,660) in cash at private residences.

In June, the Bank of Israel announced that it would test the feasibility of a retail central bank digital currency (CBDC) later this year, with results expected by the end of 2022. A CBDC, like other digital payments, would be easy to trace and monitor.

One of the obvious downsides is the new regulations make it difficult or impossible for people without bank accounts to handle their finances, effectively criminalizing most financial activities. At the time the legislation kicked in, there were over a million citizens without bank accounts in Israel.

The law has also been criticized for being racist, creating a loophole for Palestinians.

These laws restricting the use of cash are being passed in many countries and are expected to become more common in the future.

Israel is tightening their ban on using physical cash above certain thresholds, including between private citizens.

I think this trend will probably continue in other countries over time. <https://t.co/8WcmHmfshL> pic.twitter.com/k3WQj4jAnb

— Lyn Alden (@LynAldenContact) [July 31, 2022](#)

Lark Davis, a crypto influencer with one million followers on Twitter, made this prediction on Saturday.

From Monday, Israel will ban cash payments over \$4,400! That means you cannot pay cash for a used car, designer bag, or any other higher ticket item.

Not the first or last country to introduce such restrictions.

Got [#bitcoin](#)?

— Lark Davis (@TheCryptoLark) [July 30, 2022](#)

According to media reports, the Israeli government is in the process of creating a regulatory framework around digital assets.

[Rafi Farber](#), an Israeli economist and financial journalist who [blogs](#) and [videos](#) under the pen name [The End Game Investor](#), combines Torah knowledge with financial wisdom. He was critical of the new measures.

“The short-term consequences are scary,” Farber warned. “The long-term consequences are worse.”

“In a cashless system, inflation is more extreme and faster. It means that the government, or whoever has access, can track everything. Everything, even the smallest transactions, will get taxed. A teenage babysitter will have to pay taxes.”

“This is absolutely anti-Bible,” Farber added. “Jewish law goes into great detail about how to handle finances and transactions. Charging interest is a grave sin. If this facilitates interest, then it is expressly forbidden. The Temple was based around the silver half-shekel, which had to be a specific weight of actual silver.”

“According to Jewish law, money is silver,” Farber added. “But this isn’t about silver or money. The whole idea of centralized currency is geared towards control of all the money which is theft. And that is clearly forbidden. This is all geared towards tyranny which is the ultimate idolatry.”

[Russian Troops Fired on Israeli Planes in Syria, Defense Minister Confirms \(israeltoday.co.il\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #russia, #syria

Jul 29, 2022

“The situation is stable, but we are just at the beginning of this new story,” warns DM Gantz

(TPS) Russian troops stationed in Syria launched anti-aircraft missiles at Israeli Air Forces (IAF) fighter jets on a mission in Syria a few months ago, Minister of Defense **Benny Gantz** confirmed.

Speaking at the Channel 13 Policy Conference on Tuesday, Gantz revealed that about two months ago, a Russian S-300 battery launched missiles at IAF planes in Syria, the first such incident.

According to him, “this is a one-time event, our planes were not around at all,” and the missiles were fired when the IAF planes were already on their way back from the mission.

“The situation is stable, but we are looking at this story as if we have just started,” he added.

See: [Russia Opens Fire on Israel](#)

The Russians have supplied the Syrian army with four S-300 batteries but the Russian officers make the decisions inside the batteries.

The IDF and the Russian military maintain a line of communication to prevent military clashes between the forces in Syria.

Over the years, the IAF has carried out thousands of attacks in Syria to thwart the Iranian entrenchment in the war-torn country and to prevent Hezbollah from accumulating advanced weapons.

The jets often encounter anti-aircraft fire launched by Syrian batteries which use a lower-grade weapon and have a reduced effect on the strikes.

According to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported (SOHR), the IAF conducted 29 strikes in Syria throughout 2021. The attacks hit 71 targets and killed 130 people, including 125 combatants from the Syrian military, Hezbollah, and Iranian-backed Shiite militias. The IAF has conducted at least 17 attacks in Syria since the beginning of 2022.

As Russia-Israel tensions heat up, analysts advise caution - JNS.org

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #russia

Jul 26, 2022

Even as Moscow threatens to force the “dissolution” of Jewish Agency operations, experts urge Jerusalem to resolve the issue through “secret diplomacy based on common interests.”

Russia-Israel tensions have intensified in recent days as Moscow appears primed to force the “dissolution” of the Jewish Agency for Israel operations in the country. An Israeli delegation prepared to head to Moscow with a view to resolving the issue is waiting on Russian visas, even as Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid has [instructed](#) his government to prepare a series of countermeasures should Russia follow through on its threat.

“The Jewish community in Russia is deeply connected with Israel,” said Lapid in a July 21 meeting with representatives from Israel’s Foreign Ministry and National Security Council. “We will continue to act through diplomatic channels so that the Jewish Agency’s important activity will not cease.”

According to a report by the Russian news agency *Interfax*, Moscow’s Basmanny District Court received a request from the Russian Justice Ministry to shutter the Jewish Agency. The court was slated to hear the case on July 28.

While *Interfax* provided no explanation for the move, the *Associated Press* reported that the Justice Ministry accused the agency of violating privacy laws by collecting the personal information of people interested in immigrating to Israel.

Maj. Gen. (res.) Amos Gilad, former head of the Political-Military Affairs Bureau at Israel’s Ministry of Defense Ministry, told JNS that Jerusalem should be cautious and avoid issuing harsh statements against Russia that could inflame the situation. For example, Gilad described as “not helpful” Lapid’s warning on Sunday that the closure of the Jewish Agency in Russia could have a “[serious impact](#)” on bilateral relations with Moscow.

“I’m always against threats that aren’t covered by concrete action,” he said. “Also, the Russians are not so impressed by threats. They aren’t deterred by the United States and Western Europeans. Israel can do better?”

He insisted that the issue should be resolved through “secret diplomacy based on common interests.”

Gilad, currently executive director of the Institute for Policy and Strategy (IPS) at Reichman University in Herzliya, is not surprised by Russia’s present course and noted

that Russian President Vladimir Putin has made no secret of his long-held opposition to Jewish emigration.

“Putin looks unfavorably on *aliyah* because he considers Jews to be an elite population,” said Gilad.

Gilad only speculated about the “immediate reasons” underpinning Russia’s actions, while acknowledging the possibility that the prevailing explanation may be the correct one: namely, that Moscow disapproves of Israel’s position on the war with Ukraine.

Israel has attempted to walk a fine line in this respect, having refrained from supplying Kyiv with weaponry even though Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has made repeated requests for such materiel. Nor has Jerusalem imposed sanctions on Russia.

On the other hand, perhaps the sharpest criticism of the Russian invasion has been leveled by Lapid, who as foreign minister accused Moscow of perpetrating “war crimes.”

Anna Geifman, a senior researcher at Bar-Ilan University’s department of political science, told JNS that Putin wants both to punish Israel for seemingly siding with the West and to deter Jerusalem from taking any additional steps in support of Kyiv.

“Russia wants to show Israel that, ‘If you make one wrong move, we can do things to you. We have leverage,’” she said.

She nevertheless characterized as self-defeating Russia’s decision to target the Jewish Agency. “I think it’s hurting them because they’re losing another connection,” said Geifman. “If they want to mess things up even more, more power to them.”

However, she noted that Israel has few options to stop Russia: “We are powerless to do much. It’s their country,” she said.

“Far more serious is if Russia decided to act against Israel in Syria,” added Geifman. “We have to be very careful with Russia because we need to operate there. It’s a military issue. We need to make sure that we can continue to destroy Iranian arms shipments.”

The way is being paved for the Hashemite Kingdom of Palestine plan | Israel National News - Arutz Sheva

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #twostatesolution, #plo

Jul 29, 2022

Israel, Jordan and the PLO/PA seem to be moving along on the Hashemite Kingdom of Palestine plans. Can it be? Op-ed.

Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid's meeting with King Abdullah on 27 July could see negotiations being announced shortly between Israel and Jordan to create a single territorial entity encompassing Jordan, Gaza and parts of the West Bank.

This newly created entity -designated The Hashemite Kingdom of Palestine –together with Israel – will constitute the elusive and previously unattainable two-state solution – pursued by:

- the Mandate for Palestine (1922)
- The Peel Commission (1937)
- UN Resolution 181 (III) (1947)
- Venice Declaration (1980)
- Oslo Accords (1993)
- Saudi Peace Plan (1982)
- Revised Saudi Peace Plan (2002)
- Bush Roadmap (2002)
- Trump Peace Plan (2020)

- finally ending the conflict over the division of former Palestine between Arabs and Jews begun with the defeat of Turkey in World War 1.

The plan to create The Hashemite Kingdom of Palestine was first announced in *Al-Arabiya news* –owned by the Saudi Royal family –on 8 June in an article written by Ali Shihabi – a close confidante of Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman – Saudi Arabia's heir apparent to the Saudi throne and the driving force behind Neom – a \$500 billion megacity of the future to be built from the ground up in an area of northern Saudi Arabia equal to the size of Israel. It was hardly noticed by the media.

A tweet issued by King Abdullah's Palace (see below) confirms that the King and Lapid discussed the subject of a two-state solution and it seems inconceivable that they would

have discussed any plan other than this Saudi solution since the old version has been dead in the water for years..

It would appear that back channel negotiations have been going on since the release of the Saudi plan on 8 June to refine it to reflect - with more precision - the starting positions of Jordan, Israel and the PLO in any negotiations.

Those agreed starting positions include:

The Hashemite Kingdom of Palestine will be ruled by Jordan's current Hashemite ruler King Abdullah – which Hashemite dynasty has ruled Jordan for the last 100 years.

The right of return to Israel by Palestinian Arab refugees will not be pursued. Instead The Hashemite Kingdom of Palestine will integrate those refugees within its borders

The borders of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan will include

- Jordan with its current borders

- The Gaza Strip

A-reas of the 'West Bank' inhabited by Palestinian Arabs and bordering Jordan that are contiguous and not divided into islands

- The retention by Israel of the Jordan Valley and other areas of the 'West Bank' such as Oslo-designated Area C, where all the Jews in the region live, will be resolved in the negotiations

Neither the Arabs nor the Muslims will seek to expel Israel from Jerusalem. However it remains as a bargaining chip in the hands of the Palestinian Arabs in securing any agreement and giving the Holy Places in Jerusalem a special status.

Any agreement will need to be ratified by a free popular referendum by Arab voter constituencies consisting of all Jordanians and residents of the 'West Bank' and Gaza Strip and those who are stateless such as the residents of the refugee camps in Lebanon and Syria. Palestinian Arabs who are settled in other countries and who enjoy full citizenship will have no vote.

The rationale for creating The Hashemite Kingdom of Palestine is based on the fact that Jordanians and Palestinians are Sunni Arabs from the same region and integrating them will not cause any ethnic or sectarian fault lines in the long run.

Jordan has received a flurry of visits from Mohammed Bin Salman, PLO Leader Mahmoud Abbas and Israel's President Herzog, since the Saudi Plan was published.

Lapid's visit now when he is only caretaker Prime Minister is highly significant. It could indicate the commencement of negotiations is supported by the majority of Israel's political parties even though nothing can go forward until after the next government is formed post November elections.

And then - let the negotiations begin.

Banks Using ‘Sneaky Tactics’ in Drive Towards Cashless Society - Union (breitbart.com)

#bibleprophecy, #finance, #cashless, #wef

Aug 2, 2022

Banks are employing “sneaky tactics” to push towards a cashless society, a submission by a financial services union has claimed.

Ireland’s Financial Services Union (FSU) has accused banks in the country of employing “sneaky” “trojan horse” tactics in service of doing away with physical cash in a document submitted to the Irish government.

While the FSU’s claims centre around the actions of Irish banks, similar concerns have been raised in regards to the push towards a cashless society internationally, with the infamous World Economic Forum, in particular, [pushing](#) the transition.

According to a report on the document [penned](#) by the *Irish Independent*, the FSU accuses banks of intentionally understaffing branches, failing to repair cash ATMs within a reasonable timeframe, and not answering their own phones all in an attempt to push people online.

The group also claims that COVID-19 was used as an excuse by Irish financial institutions to reduce services and hours, despite many having failed to return to normality now the country has largely escaped lockdown.

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“This is all to deny people cash and drive them online,” group General Secretary John O’Connell reportedly told the publication, with the union head, in particular, describing the pandemic period as being a “Trojan horse used to force people on to digital platforms”.

“The banks have used Covid and the transition from it to force people on to digital platforms, whether they want to or not,” he also said. “The lack of staffing... is chronic in banks for a reason. It creates long queues. It is the same with the phone lines.”

Great Reset: World Economic Forum Pushes Cashless Society Central Bank Digital Currencies <https://t.co/HXTnXfqFvM>

— Breitbart London (@BreitbartLondon) [May 12, 2022](#)

The group's submission to the Irish government about the issue of banks pushing people into digital-only banking comes shortly after the public [fended off](#) an attempt by Allied Irish Bank (AIB), one of the country's major players in the industry, to remove all cash services from 70 of its branches.

Having faced extreme public and political backlash on the issue, the AIB's CEO eventually admitted that the organisation had "got it wrong", and had "moved far too far, far too fast."

However, the shift towards a cashless society is not only something that has become a concern in Ireland, with the drive towards digital-only — something openly [pushed for](#) by the infamous World Economic Forum — recently gaining serious attention internationally.

For example, the UK government has [announced](#) that it will be implementing legislation protecting an individual's access to physical cash as banks [shutter](#) branches across the country.

Such a reduction in access a report published in March [claimed](#) would leave millions in the country struggling, with ATM access in particular being very important in the budgeting process for many people.

"Millions of people across the UK still rely on cash, particularly those in vulnerable groups, and today we are delivering on our promise to ensure that access to cash is protected in communities across the country," the country's economic secretary, John Glen, said regarding the move back in May.

"I want to make sure that people are still able to use cash as part of their daily lives, and it's crucial to ensure that no person nor community across the UK is left behind as we embrace a more digital world," he continued.

South African foreign minister wants Israel designated as apartheid state **(israel365news.com)**

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #apartheid, #southafrica

Jul 28, 2022

South Africa's Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Naledi Pandor says that Israel should be designated an "apartheid state," and on Monday called on the U.N. General Assembly to establish a committee to formally probe whether or not Israel meets the criteria for that designation.

Pandor's remarks at the United Nations are the harshest toward Israel from any South African official thus far, even though South Africa generally adopts a pro-Palestinian, anti-Israel stance.

Pandor demanded a U.N. committee at a meeting of the Palestinian Heads of Mission in Africa Conference in Pretoria. She said that the Palestinian narrative revived "experiences of oppression and separation" South Africa experienced under apartheid.

Palestinian Authority Foreign Minister Riyad al-Maliki, who also attended the meeting, said in an interview to South Africa's public broadcaster that if there were any countries able to comprehend the Palestinian "struggle for liberty and independence," it would be the countries of Africa.

South African hostility toward Israel goes back decades. During the time of the country's apartheid regime, when South Africa was under an international boycott, Israel maintained ties with it that included military cooperation. Foreign reports have said that the two countries collaborated on nuclear projects, as well.

California Wants you to Pay state for using your Own Water | ZeroHedge

#bibleprophecy, #california, #water, #taxes

Jul 20, 2022

California EPA Asserts Shockingly Broad Domain Over Private Property

Letter: Blumenfeld tells well owners they now must pay for their own water

Legend has it that Jed Clampett “was shootin’ at some food / When up through the ground come a bubblin’ crude.”

The Beverly Hillbillies’ transformation into instant millionaires illustrates one of the oldest conceptions in the western world: What’s on your land belongs to you. This idea predates the founding of America. If you find gold in your backyard, that resource belongs to you.

California wants to change that.

A source near San Diego has shared with California Globe a shocking letter that’s quietly being delivered to owners of private wells.

“California is marching toward a world where those with wells on their own property will be required to put a meter on them and pay the government,” writes the source. “Because in their world, the government owns everything and we’re just renters.”

The letter is signed by Natalie Stork, the Chief of Groundwater Management Program Unit 1, and was sent in late July on the letterhead of California Water Boards, under the authority of Gov. Newsom and Jared Blumenfeld, Secretary for Environmental Protection. Buried beneath the bureaucratic acronyms GSA and SGMA (Groundwater Sustainability Agency and Sustainable Groundwater Management Act) is an extremely aggressive conception of government authority and its dominion over private property.

The letter reads, “Landowners whose property is within an unmanaged area and contains an operating ground water extraction well must report the volume of groundwater extracted from the well. The groundwater extraction volume must be reported as a monthly total. In addition to pumping volumes, reports must include the location of the well and the place and purpose of use of the groundwater. Groundwater extraction reports are not due to the state water board until February 1, 2023. However, if you are required to report, the report must include pumping volumes for each month between the date of receipt of this letter and September 30, 2022.”

This is not merely a bureaucratic hassle. There are fees, of course. The base filing fee is \$300 per well, which all extractors are required to report. Then there’s an additional fee of \$10 per acre foot with a meter, \$25 per acre foot without. Tardy filers face a late fee of 25% per month.

California Globe reached out to Ms. Stork and SGMA to inquire how widely this letter was sent and where the State Water Resources Control Board derives the right to charge well owners for water on their own property. This story will be updated to include her comment if either responds.

Meanwhile, the ramifications for property rights are enormous.

“They’re sending out letters to property owners saying they must declare [if] they use just two acre feet,” observes the source who received the letter. “If they use more they must pay an annual fee of \$300 for each well plus they must meter the water and send in a monthly usage report and pay a fee for water that is pumped starting in Feb 2023. What a great racket! The government provides no service, no support, no product, doesn’t even do the billing! That’s all on citizens. All [the government does] is cash the check.”

According to two people who received the letter, so far no organized resistance to this private property grab has yet emerged. But at least one source expects the small fees to grow, which will surely lead to pushback from residents.

“The fees may seem small today, but they always start small. Then they’ll ratchet up. Similarly, while this excludes light domestic users, it won’t for long.”

Below is a copy of the letter, with potentially identifying portions redacted to avoid the recipient being targeted by government authorities who clearly know no bounds.

Pope Francis Says He May Need to Consider 'Stepping Aside' | PEOPLE.com

#bibleprophecy, #pope, #church, #catholic

Jul 30, 2022

[Pope Francis](#) is reflecting on his position as head of the Catholic Church.

After a six-day [visit to Canada](#), the 85-year-old pontiff told journalists that he may one day step down from the Vatican's top job.

"It is not a catastrophe to change Pope, it is not a taboo," Francis told journalists on a flight to Rome the [BBC](#) reported.

"The door [to retiring] is open - it is a normal option, " he added, reported the BBC. "But until today I have not knocked on that door,"

"I have not felt the need to think about this possibility - that is not to say that in two days' time I might not start thinking about it."

Looking back at his strenuous trip to North America – which he described as "intense," reported the BBC – Francis provided some context to his thoughts. "I don't think I can keep traveling with the same rhythm I used to at my age and with the limitation of this knee," said Francis in references to an injury that has seen him [using a wheelchair](#) in public for the first time.

"I either need to save myself a little in order to continue serving the Church, or I need to consider the possibility of stepping aside," added the pontiff.

Rumors about Francis' retirement first began swirling in May, when he was photographed using his wheelchair for the first time.

The suspicions increased in June when he announced a visit to L'Aquila in central Italy for the Feast of Celestinian Forgiveness – the same location his predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI, visited in 2009 ahead of his 2013 resignation, reported the [Catholic News Agency](#).

Earlier this month, Francis spoke out denying the rumors, however.

In an interview with [Reuters](#), the Pope said that upcoming big events on his calendar, including a visit to the city of L'Aquila are not the sign of something more significant.

"All of these coincidences made some think that the same 'liturgy' would happen," Francis said. "But it never entered my mind. For the moment no, for the moment, no. Really!"

Francis did say, though, much like what he said in Canada, that he might resign one day if health issues prohibited him from running the church. If this does occur, it would

be only the second time a modern-era Pope left the position rather than serving for life, as is tradition, after Benedict XVI resigned at age 85.

The Reuters interview was published on the day the Pope was supposed to leave for a trip to the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan but had to cancel due to doctor's orders following his knee injury.

According to the outlet, doctors said at the time that he might also have to skip the trip to Canada too, "unless he agreed to have 20 more days of therapy and rest for his right knee."

The Pope shared that he had experienced a "small fracture" in his knee and said he was "slowly getting better."

As for his trip to Canada, Francis' main goal was [to apologize](#) for the Catholic Church's "catastrophic" residential school system for Indigenous children in the country.

Speaking Monday at a former residential school south of Edmonton, Alberta, the 85-year-old pontiff asked the Indigenous community for "forgiveness for the evil committed by so many Christians against the Indigenous peoples," according to the [Associated Press](#).

Over 150,000 Indigenous children were forced to attend Christian-based, state-run schools, starting in the 1870s and ending in 1997, [CBC](#) reported. More than 4,100 of the students are believed to have died at the facilities, which separated the kids from their families and culture.

"I am deeply sorry — sorry for the ways in which, regrettably, many Christians supported the colonizing mentality of the powers that oppressed the Indigenous peoples," Francis said in Spanish, per [The Washington Post](#).

Francis, who arrived in Canada on Sunday, also promised a "serious investigation" into the schools, [CNN](#) reported.

"I ask forgiveness, in particular, for the ways in which many members of the Church and of religious communities cooperated, not least through their indifference, in projects of cultural destruction and forced assimilation promoted by the governments of that time, which culminated in the system of residential schools," the pope said.

He later added, "What our Christian faith tells us is that this was a disastrous error, incompatible with the Gospel of Jesus Christ," according to the *Post*.

Monday's speech was the first event of Francis' "penitential pilgrimage" to the country. His trip lasted six days.

'Religious Liberty Is Under Attack' Worldwide, Supreme Court Justice Warns - Michael Foust (christianheadlines.com)

#bibleprophecy, #religion, #church, #liberty

Jul 29, 2022

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito is warning that religious liberty is in peril around the world partly because of the waning influence of religion itself.

“It is hard to convince people that religious liberty is worth defending if they don’t think that religion is a good thing that deserves protection,” Alito [said](#) last week at the Notre Dame Religious Liberty Summit in Rome.

The challenge for those who want to protect religious liberty in the United States and elsewhere is to “convince people who are not religious that religious liberty is worth special protection,” he said.

“That will not be easy to do,” Alito added.

Alito’s comments were [reported](#) by the Notre Dame School of Law, which hosted the summit.

“If we look around the world today, we see that people of many different faiths face persecution because of religion,” Alito said while mentioning Iraq, Nigeria, Egypt and China. “... Religious liberty is under attack in many places because it is dangerous to those who want to hold complete power. It also probably grows out of something dark and deep in the human DNA – the tendency to distrust and dislike people who are not like ourselves.”

Alito referenced the many ways society benefits when religious liberty is embraced, including its promotion of charitable works, domestic tranquility and diversity in thought. Religious liberty at its best, he said, allows different types of people to live together harmoniously.

He cited leaders from history who were driven by their religious beliefs, including Martin Luther King Jr.

“If religious liberty is protected, religious leaders and other men and women of faith will be able to speak out on social issues,” Alito said. “People with deep religious convictions may be less likely to succumb to dominating ideologies or trends, and more likely to act in accordance with what they see as true and right. Civil society can count on them as engines of reform.”