



SIGNS OF THE TIMES

News Articles for Episode 397

Hamas builds new terror regime in Gaza, recruiting teens amid problematic election

| Foxnews.com

#bibleprophecy, #gaza, #hamas, #israel, #election

Dec 28, 2025

Hamas Gaza ceasefire allows terrorist group to rebuild military capabilities and restore control, according to Professor Kobi Michael from the Institute for National Security Studies.

Hamas is rebuilding a new Gaza terror apparatus and using the ceasefire with Israel to boost its military, restore a problematic leadership structure and recruit a new generation of teenage fighters, according to a leading national security analyst.

Professor [Kobi Michael](#), a senior researcher at the Institute for National Security Studies and the Misgav Institute, told Fox News Digital that the pause in fighting has given Hamas breathing room to regroup.

"Everything that is happening will continue happening as long as Hamas continues to effectively control the western part of the Gaza Strip," Michael said.

"Generally speaking, Hamas now has full freedom of movement," he warned.

Since Israeli forces withdrew from parts of Gaza in October under a new ceasefire framework, Hamas has moved to fill the power vacuum.

At the time, police forces returned to the streets as Hamas fighters targeted and [executed suspected opponents](#).

Multiple reports indicate [Hamas is now rebuilding across](#) significant portions of Gaza, including areas where the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) previously operated.

A December report by the [Jewish News Syndicate](#) found that Hamas is "actively rebuilding its regime of terror" in nearly half of the territory it controls.

Hamas is also preparing to [elect a new political leader](#) following the deaths of Ismail Haniyeh and Yahya Sinwar, the mastermind of the Oct. 7 massacre in Israel.

According to The Jerusalem Post, senior Hamas figures Khalil al-Hayya and Khaled Mashaal are the contenders, with Hayya seen as the favorite because of his popularity in Gaza and his role in the West Bank.

Michael said the leadership race is unlikely to alter Hamas's already dangerous course.

"Both leaders are problematic," he said. "Each one, in his own way, is considered to be more militant and more radical in his Gazan orientation and his support for armed resistance."

Even Mashaal, often described as more politically oriented, "is still in favor of the continuation of armed resistance," Michael added.

"When it comes to Hamas, it doesn't really matter who is going to be the next [political leader of this terror organization](#)."

Michael said one of the most alarming developments is Hamas's growing success in recruiting teenagers during the ceasefire.

"It has become very easy for Hamas to [recruit teenagers](#) now because they effectively control the western part of the Gaza Strip," he said, noting Hamas has become "the most reliable employer in the Gaza Strip," offering small incomes to boys as young as 16 or 17.

"It seems to be very natural for them to join Hamas, because some of them have also lost relatives, and therefore there's a revenge incentive."

"They also might prefer to be in the bullyish-types of neighborhoods, like in the [ghettos in Chicago](#)," he said.

Michael suggested that because Hamas has "full freedom of movement, they have also been [rebuilding tunnels](#)."

"They also [appointed new governors](#) to the different districts in Gaza and are reconstituting their government and military stockpiles," Michael added.

Iran reportedly developing chemical warheads as economic crisis sparks protests | Foxnews.com

#bibleprophecy, #iran, #warheads, #missles

Dec 29, 2025

As Netanyahu meets Trump, intelligence suggests Iran accelerating chemical weapons work while facing unprecedented domestic unrest and economic crisis.

Iran is reportedly developing chemical and biological warheads for its ballistic missiles, even as the country faces mounting domestic unrest fueled by a collapsing currency and soaring inflation, according to an exclusive report published by Iran International on Sunday.

The outlet, citing unnamed military and security sources, reported that [Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps](#) has accelerated work on unconventional missile payloads alongside upgrades to command-and-control systems. If confirmed, the developments would raise serious alarms in Washington and Israel, particularly as Tehran struggles to contain growing anger at home.

The report comes as Israeli Prime Minister [Benjamin Netanyahu](#) meets with President [Donald Trump](#) on Monday, with Iran's missile program and broader regional security threats expected to be high on the agenda, according to Israeli and U.S. officials familiar with the discussions. The talks are also expected to address the war in Gaza, amid U.S. officials' concerns that Netanyahu has delayed advancing a postwar framework and ceasefire-related steps.

According to Iran International, missile infrastructure has been repositioned and expanded, with some launch assets reportedly moved to eastern Iran to reduce vulnerability. The report claims the IRGC is exploring nonconventional warhead configurations for long-range missiles.

Tehran has long denied pursuing chemical or biological weapons, insisting its missile program is defensive. Iran is a signatory to the [Chemical Weapons Convention](#), though Western governments have repeatedly accused the Islamic Republic of violating international norms.

The missile report coincides with escalating economic unrest inside Iran. [Iran International](#) reported Monday that shopkeepers in Tehran shut down major markets for a second consecutive day, protesting inflation and the collapse of the national currency.

A [video from Tehran](#) posted on Simay Azadi's TV X page on Monday showed a large crowd marching in the streets and chanting slogans against the regime.

An Iranian opposition group, the National Council of Resistance of Iran, said the strikes spread across multiple commercial districts, including the Gold Bazaar and central arcades, with crowds gathering in surrounding streets. The group also claimed security forces linked to the IRGC were placed on heightened alert in Tehran, with additional units on standby in nearby provinces. The claims could not be independently verified.

In a statement, Maryam Rajavi, NCRI president-elect, said the protests reflected public anger over high prices, inflation and political repression, and called on Iranians to support the striking merchants.

The Iranian rial has fallen to a new record low against the U.S. dollar. Official data show year-on-year inflation reached 52.6% in December, while average annual inflation was 42.2%. Videos circulating online show chants against government officials and growing frustration among merchants, a group traditionally viewed as a key pillar of regime support.

Iran announces satellite launch with Russian help as tensions with US grow | Foxnews.com

#bibleprophecy, #iran, #warheads, #missles

Dec 31, 2025

Iran launches three satellites with Russian assistance, showcasing deepening cooperation as they resist Western sanctions and international pressure.

While the United States presses for negotiations aimed at ending the war in Ukraine, Russia is signaling a parallel strategy — deepening cooperation with U.S. adversaries and portraying itself as resistant to Western pressure.

That posture was on display this week when Iran announced that three of its domestically designed [satellites were launched](#) into orbit aboard a Russian rocket.

The launch was broadcast by Iran's Arabic-language state television channel Al-Alam News Network, which aired footage showing the satellites lifting off from Russian territory. The Associated Press and Reuters reported that the satellites were carried into orbit aboard a Russian rocket launched from eastern Russia, marking the seventh time Iran has conducted a satellite launch with Russian assistance.

IRANIAN PRESIDENT SAYS HIS COUNTRY IS AT 'TOTAL WAR' WITH THE US, ISRAEL AND EUROPE: REPORTS

Iranian Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali said the satellites were "designed and produced by Iranian scientists," adding that cooperation between Tehran and Moscow continues "despite all the sanctions and threats," according to Iranian state media cited by Reuters.

Iranian officials claim the satellites are intended for civilian purposes, including environmental monitoring and agriculture, though Western governments have long warned that Iran's space program could advance technologies applicable to ballistic missile development.

The launch underscored a broader strategic relationship between [Moscow](#) that has expanded significantly since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Iran has supplied Russia with drones and other military equipment used on the battlefield, while Russia has provided diplomatic cover, economic cooperation and advanced technical support amid sweeping Western sanctions on both countries.

The growing Russia-Iran alignment comes as tensions between Tehran and Washington continue to rise. After President [Donald Trump](#) recently warned that the

United States could strike Iran again if it attempted to rebuild its nuclear program, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian issued a sharp response.

According to the Associated Press, Pezeshkian said any U.S. attack would be met with a "harsh and discouraging" response. Iranian officials framed the warning as defensive, arguing it was meant to deter potential U.S. aggression rather than signal an intention to initiate conflict. Tehran has repeatedly said its nuclear program is peaceful, a claim the United States and its allies dispute.

The exchange highlights how Iran and Russia are increasingly positioning themselves as partners pushing back against U.S. pressure, even as Washington attempts to pursue diplomacy on multiple fronts. Russia has portrayed its partnerships with Iran and other sanctioned states as evidence that Western efforts to isolate Moscow have failed, while Iran has used its cooperation with Russia to showcase technological resilience under sanctions.

'Jesus is Palestinian' billboard in Times Square | Foxnews.com

#bibleprophecy, #jesus, #billboard, #arabs, #palestine

Dec 26, 2025

'Jesus is Palestinian' billboard in Times Square this week placed by Arab-American rights group

A billboard in Times Square claims Jesus is Palestinian in a holiday message from an Arab-American group amid ongoing Middle East tensions.

A billboard placed this week in Times Square by the American-Arab Discrimination Committee claims that [Jesus was a Palestinian](#), although the modern State of Palestine wasn't established until nearly 2,000 years after Jesus' birth.

"Jesus is Palestinian, Merry Christmas," reads one billboard from the committee, which on its website describes itself as the biggest Arab-American grassroots organization in the United States.

In a [recent post on Instagram](#), the committee said that its billboards — another quotes the Quran about Jesus — were meant to bring awareness to the conflict between Gaza and Israel.

[In October](#), President [Donald Trump](#) orchestrated a peace deal between Gaza and Israel and facilitated the return of Israeli hostages taken during the Oct. 7 terror attack.

One slide in the Instagram post read, "As Gaza endures genocide, and the birthplace of Jesus is under siege and occupation, we reclaim a fundamental truth in the heart of Times Square. In a season of peace, we speak for those who've been denied peace."

"Beyond consumerism, we center unity, heritage and Palestine," another slide in the post read.

In October, President Donald Trump orchestrated a peace deal between Hamas and Israel and facilitated the return of Israeli hostages taken during the Oct. 7 terror attack. (Rebecca Noble/Getty Images)

According to the post, the billboards are meant to "Reclaim the truth, honoring the Palestinian refugee born in Bethlehem," combat the "ongoing erasure of Palestinian identity, culture, and rootedness to the land," call attention to "reverence" for Jesus in Islam, and to assert truth and reject silence.

Another slide, also featured on one of the billboards, quotes the Quran, which reads, "Remember when the angels proclaimed, 'O Mary! Allah gives you good news of a

Word from Him, his name will be the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary; honoured in this world and the Hereafter, and he will be one of those nearest to Allah."

The Instagram post discussing the billboards reads, "Our two NY billboards are an act of cultural resilience: 'Jesus is Palestinian. Merry Christmas.' The Quranic verse (3:45) announcing the blessed birth of Jesus, with 'Merry Christmas' in English and Arabic."

The Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem at dawn of Christmas Eve, 2023. (Reuters)

Modern-day Bethlehem, revered as the birthplace of Jesus Christ, is located in the West Bank and has a Muslim-majority population. The city at the time of the birth of Jesus was located in Judea. Bethlehem's Christian population as a percentage of the area has dwindled considerably since the 1950s.

The State of Palestine, which is not recognized by the United States and has non-member status in the United Nations, was established in 1988.

In a statement shared with [Fox News Digital](#), Adeb Ayoub, national executive director of the organization, said, "There will be disagreements and debates about names. However there is one thing that is indisputable - Israel has been killing Christians in the birthplace of Jesus with impunity for decades. Yesterday was the first time Christmas was celebrated in Bethlehem for the first time in 3 years. American taxpayers have been paying for the persecution of Christians by the [sic] Israel, and they are waking up to that fact."

Ayoub added, "Of note, the Foreign Ministry of Israel also purchased ad space on that same billboard to counter our messaging, so American taxpayers are paying for the killing of Christians, and for the propaganda campaign to cover the atrocities by Israel. The coverage by media outlets about the killing of Christians by Israel has been non-existent. However, put a billboard up in Times Square and the coverage is there. Sadly, this billboard is the only way media outlets will discuss Christians in the Holy Land. Thank you for taking time to write about Christians living in the Holy Land. God Bless all people of faith, and God Bless the United States of America."

President Trump: Nicolás Maduro ‘Captured and Flown Out Of’ Venezuela | Breitbart.com

#bibleprophecy, #nicolas maduro, #venezuela, #drugs, #terrorism

Jan 3, 2026

President Donald Trump announced that Nicolás Maduro and his wife Cilia Flores have been “captured and flown out of the country”

U.S. President Donald Trump announced Saturday morning that Venezuela’s socialist dictator Nicolás Maduro and his wife Cilia Flores have been “captured and flown out of the country”, a message that came after a series of explosions hit Caracas.

“The United States of America has successfully carried out a large scale strike against Venezuela and its leader, President Nicolas Maduro, who has been, along with his wife, captured and flown out of the Country. This operation was done in conjunction with U.S. Law Enforcement,” President Trump said in a Truth Social [statement](#). He added that further details would follow at a press conference to be hosted later today at Mar-a-Lago.

Watch Trump’s Address on the Capture of Maduro:

President Trump’s bulletin comes hours after a series of apparent [airstrikes](#) hit several locations across the capital city of Caracas and other regions of Venezuela.

U.S. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth and White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt shared a copy of Trump’s Truth Social post on the social media platform X (formerly Twitter).

Maduro, who has maintained himself in power through a series of sham presidential elections, is actively [wanted](#) by U.S. authorities on multiple narco-terrorism charges. The U.S. has an active [\\$50 million](#) bounty on information leading to Nicolás Maduro’s arrest and/or conviction.

U.S. courts [accused](#) Maduro in 2020 of being a leading figure, if not the leader of, the Cartel of the Suns, an international cocaine trafficking operation led by top members of the Venezuelan regime that for years sought to “flood” the United States with cocaine to harm its people.

The Venezuelan socialist regime has not publicly commented on President Trump’s announcement at press time. The Venezuelan newspaper *El Nacional* [reported](#) that large swatches of Caracas remain without power as of early Saturday morning — with dozens of residents [evacuating](#) Fuerte Tiuna, Venezuela’s main military complex.

For years, Fuerte Tiuna was [believed](#) to house Nicolás Maduro's personal bunker, among other important facilities of the rogue regime. *El Nacional* also [stated](#) that La Carlota, Venezuela's main military airport, was hit by the strikes.

Venezuelan Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino López — who is also [wanted](#) by the U.S. on drug trafficking charges — addressed the nation moments after the strikes through a video posted on Instagram, denouncing them as an “invasion” representing “the greatest outrage suffered by Venezuela.”

Padrino López rejected the narco-terrorism accusations and claimed that the strikes are part of a “regime change” operation to “submit” Venezuela to the “American Empire.” The video was published moments before President Trump’s announcement.

“Desperation is the invader’s ally. Let us avoid chaos and anarchy. They have attacked us, but they will not break us. We will prevail,” Padrino López said, calling for the international community to rally around Venezuela and condemn the United States.

Trump Takes U.S. out of 66 Globalist Orgs & Treaties | Breitbart.com

#bibleprophecy, #trump, #treaties, #united nations

Jan 8, 2026

The Trump administration is taking U.S. taxpayer dollars away from 66 globalist organizations, nearly half of them affiliated with the United Nations.

The Trump administration announced Wednesday it's taking U.S. taxpayer dollars away from 66 globalist organizations, nearly half of them affiliated with the United Nations and all of which are identified as "contrary to the interests of the United States."

Most notable is the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the parent treaty underpinning all major international climate agreements, AFP [reports](#).

The treaty adopted in 1992 is a global pact by nations to cooperate to drive down planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of so-called "climate change."

A despairing European Union climate chief Wopke Hoekstra said the UNFCCC "underpins global climate action" and brings nations together in the collective fight against the crisis.

"The decision by the world's largest economy and second-largest emitter to retreat from it is regrettable and unfortunate," Hoekstra said in a post on LinkedIn.

"We will unequivocally continue to support international climate research, as the foundation of our understanding and work. We will also continue to work on international climate cooperation."

Trump, who has thrown the full weight of his domestic policy behind fossil fuels, has openly scorned speculation human activity is warming the planet, deriding it as a "hoax."

His administration sent no representative to the most recent U.N. climate summit in Brazil in November, which is held every year under the auspices of the UNFCCC.

Now Trump is making sure U.S. taxpayer dollars are no longer spent at the discretion of the U.N. and its associated globalist affiliates. The AFP reports on just some of the organizations impacted:

The memo also directs the United States to withdraw from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the UN body responsible for assessing climate science,

alongside other climate-related organizations including the International Renewable Energy Agency, UN Oceans and UN Water.

As in his first term, Trump has also withdrawn the United States from UNESCO — the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization — which Washington had rejoined under Biden.

Trump has likewise pulled the US out of the World Health Organization and sharply reduced foreign aid.

California Governor Gavin Newsom said the move was made by a “brainless president” who is “surrendering America’s leadership on the world stage and weakening our ability to compete in the economy of the future — creating a leadership vacuum that China is already exploiting.”

[Israel accuses Mamdani of pouring 'antisemitic gasoline' after he revokes Adams executive orders | Foxnews.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #anti-semitism, #mamdani, #new york city, #israel

Jan 2, 2026

New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani faces criticism from Israel after revoking executive orders signed by Eric Adams that supported the Jewish state.

Israel tore into New York City Mayor [Zohran Mamdani](#) after he revoked a pair of executive orders signed by former Mayor Eric Adams that supported the Jewish state.

"On his very first day as [New York City](#) mayor, Mamdani shows his true face: He scraps the IHRA definition of antisemitism and lifts restrictions on boycotting Israel," Israel's Foreign Ministry wrote in a post on X.

"This isn't leadership. It's antisemitic gasoline on an open fire."

On day one in office, Mamdani revoked all [orders issued by Adams](#) after he was indicted on federal corruption charges, including one that barred city agencies from boycotting or divesting from Israel.

[GOP SENATOR CALLS MAMDANI'S NETANYAHU ARREST VOW A 'GRAVE THREAT' AS HE INTRODUCES DEFUND BILL](#)

Another order had adopted a sweeping definition of antisemitism defined by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), which included "demonizing Israel and holding it to double standards as forms of contemporary antisemitism" or denying the Jewish people's right to have a national homeland.

While all orders on or after Sept. 26, 2024 — the day of Adams' indictment — have been revoked to "ensur[e] a fresh start for the incoming administration," City Hall officials insist Mamdani will reissue the executive orders that he still supports.

Another rescinded order had directed the NYPD to bolster enforcement around religious sites by establishing protest-free buffer zones near churches, synagogues and mosques.

Adams' critics had said the IHRA order violated First Amendment protections of free speech.

The city's right-leaning Jewish leaders slammed the revocations.

Ambassador Ofir Akunis, Israel's consul general, said the revocations "pose an immediate threat to the safety of Jewish communities in New York City and could lead to an increase in violent antisemitic attacks throughout the city."

Brooklyn City Councilwoman Inna Vernikov said the IHRA definition of antisemitism "protects from discrimination Jews who believe in self-determination and provides clarity on the definition."

"We need to enforce federal law that's already in place here, because the pro-Hamas antisemites emboldened by [Mamdani] are coming!" she added.

The city's first Muslim mayor, who was sworn in on a pair of family Qurans, has been branded a "jihadist communist" and a "terrorist" sympathizer by critics like New York GOP Rep. Elise Stefanik.

Mamdani has taken positions sharply critical of Israel that break with the long-standing consensus among New York elected officials in a city with the largest Jewish population in the U.S.

Mamdani has repeatedly described Israel as an apartheid state, accused it of committing genocide in Gaza, and said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu should be arrested.

Pressed repeatedly during the campaign on whether he supports Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state, Mamdani responded: "I'm not comfortable supporting any state that has a hierarchy of citizenship on the basis of religion or anything else. I think that in the way that we have in this country, equality should be enshrined in every country in the world."

Mamdani has also said he will not tolerate antisemitism in New York and vowed to increase funding to combat hate crimes.

Deadly 'superbug' is spreading across US as drug resistance grows, researchers warn | Foxnews.com

#bibleprophecy, #disease, #fungus, #superbug, #hospitals

Jan 3, 2026

As *Candida auris* superbug spreads rapidly through U.S. hospitals and becomes increasingly drug-resistant worldwide, new research offers hope for treatments.

A deadly, drug-resistant fungus already spreading rapidly through U.S. hospitals is becoming even more threatening worldwide, though there may be hope for new treatments, according to a new scientific review.

Candida auris (C. auris), often described as a "[superbug fungus](#)," is spreading globally and increasingly resisting human immune systems, Hackensack Meridian Center for Discovery and Innovation (CDI) researchers said in a review published in early December.

The findings reinforce prior CDC warnings that have labeled C. auris an "urgent antimicrobial threat" — the first fungal pathogen to receive that designation — as U.S. cases have surged, particularly in hospitals and long-term care centers.

DANGEROUS SPIKE IN SUPERBUG INFECTIONS SURGES ACROSS US AS EXPERTS SHARE CAUTIONS

Approximately 7,000 cases were identified across dozens of U.S. states in 2025, [according to the CDC](#), and it has reportedly been identified in at least 60 countries.

The review, published in *Microbiology and Molecular Biology Reviews*, helps explain why the pathogen is so difficult to contain and warns that outdated diagnostics and limited treatments lag behind. It was conducted by Dr. Neeraj Chauhan of the Hackensack Meridian CDI in New Jersey, Dr. Anuradha Chowdhary of the University of Delhi's Medical Mycology Unit and Dr. Michail Lionakis, chief of the clinical mycology program at the National Institutes of Health.

Their findings stress the need to develop "novel antifungal agents with broad-spectrum activity against human fungal pathogens, to improve diagnostic tests and to develop immune- and vaccine-based adjunct modalities for the treatment of high-risk patients," the researchers said [in a statement](#).

GROWING ANTIBIOTIC CRISIS COULD TURN BACTERIAL INFECTIONS DEADLY, EXPERTS WARN

"In addition, future efforts should focus on raising awareness about [fungal disease](#) through developing better surveillance mechanisms, especially in resource-poor countries," they added. "All these developments should help improve the outcomes and prognosis of patients afflicted by opportunistic fungal infections."

First identified in 2009 from a patient's ear sample in Japan, *C. auris* has since spread to dozens of countries, including the U.S., where outbreaks have forced some hospital intensive care units to shut down, according to the researchers.

The fungus poses the greatest risk to people who are already critically ill, particularly those on ventilators or with weakened immune systems. Once infected, about half of patients may die, according to some estimates.

FLU BY STATE: WHERE THIS SEASON'S HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS VARIANT IS SPREADING THE MOST

Unlike many other fungi, *C. auris* can survive on human skin and cling to hospital surfaces and medical equipment, allowing it to spread easily in healthcare settings.

"It is resistant to multiple antifungal drugs, and it tends to spread in hospital settings, including on equipment being used on immunocompromised and semi-immunocompromised patients, such as ventilators and catheters," Dr. Marc Siegel, Fox News senior medical analyst and clinical professor of medicine at NYU Langone, [previously told Fox News Digital](#).

Scientists say the unique cell wall structure of *C. auris* makes it harder to kill. (iStock)

It is also frequently misdiagnosed, delaying treatment and infection control measures.

"Unfortunately, symptoms such as fever, chills and aches may be ubiquitous, and it can be mistaken for other infections," Siegel said.

In September, he said intense research was ongoing to develop new treatments.

Only four major classes of antifungal drugs are currently available, and *C. auris* has already shown resistance to many of them. While three new antifungal drugs have been approved or are in late-stage trials, researchers warn that drug development has struggled to keep pace with the fungus's evolution.

Despite the sobering findings, there is still room for cautious optimism.

In [separate research](#) published in December, scientists at the University of Exeter in England discovered a potential weakness in *C. auris* while studying the fungus in a living-host model.

The team found that, during infection, the fungus activates specific genes to scavenge iron, a nutrient it needs to survive, according to their paper, published in the Nature portfolio journal *Communications Biology* in December.

Because iron is essential for the pathogen, researchers believe drugs that block this process could eventually stop infections or even allow existing medications to be repurposed.

"We think our research may have revealed an Achilles' heel in this lethal pathogen during active infection," Dr. Hugh Gifford, a clinical lecturer at the University of Exeter and co-author of the study, said [in a statement](#).

As researchers race to better understand the fungus, officials warn that strict infection control, rapid detection and continued investment in new treatments remain critical.

Health experts emphasize that *C. auris* is not a threat to [healthy people](#).

'Unexpected' Roman-era discoveries unearthed in biblical city mentioned in Book of Revelation | Foxnews.com

#bibleprophecy, #church, #apostle paul, #ephesus

Jan 2, 2026

A Roman-era marble bathtub was recently unearthed in Ephesus and dates to the first century A.D. The city is known for being mentioned in the Book of Revelation.

Extraordinary [ancient finds](#) were recently unearthed in Ephesus, the Turkish city where Paul the Apostle once preached.

The discovery was announced by Anadolu Agency (AA), a state-run outlet in Ankara, on Dec. 12. Ephesus is also known as being one of the seven churches of Asia mentioned in the [Book of Revelation](#).

The star of the excavation was a Roman-era marble bathtub, along with a fragment of a male statue's torso that was later reused as a paving stone.

Archaeologist Serdar Aybek, speaking to AA, said the bathtub dates back to the first century A.D. Unlike Ephesus's large, public bath complexes, the one that was recently uncovered was likely "intended for domestic use."

"It is an [unusual discovery](#) because it is not something we encounter frequently," Aybek said.

"We believe it belonged to the Terrace Houses and was used in the first century A.D.," he added. "We found it during work at the theater, and its size shows it was used in a house."

The bathtub was found along the ancient Stadium Street. It likely belonged to Ephesus's Terrace Houses complex, where wealthy Roman families lived in [lavish villas](#).

The bathtub was carved with Greco Scritto marble — a regional variety with distinct black veins — and measured almost 5 feet long, 2.5 feet wide and 2 feet high, authorities said.

After being used by a high-income household, the bath was later repurposed as a fountain trough.

Aybek also described the discovery of the statue fragment, which dated between the first century B.C. and the first century A.D., as "completely unexpected."

The statue of the unidentified man was carved into multiple parts and attached together before it was later dismantled.

Archaeologists found it face-down — and said it was used as a paving stone in the roadway.

The discoveries have come on the heels of many recent Asia Minor discoveries linked to early Christian history.

In October, a 1,500-year-old [Christian floor mosaic](#) was found in Urfa, a city traditionally regarded as the birthplace of Abraham.

In Laodicea — a city also mentioned in the Book of Revelation — the remains of a [massive Roman council hall](#) were unearthed this summer.

Good News

Scriptures(s):

5 - 7 NFL Playoff Quarterbacks Who Are Bold About Their Love for Jesus | Crosswalk.com

#bibleprophecy, #salvation, #testimony, #football

Jan 5, 2026

This NFL season, several star quarterbacks are not only leading their teams on the field but also openly sharing their deep Christian faith.

The 2025–26 season features players at every position who aren't ashamed of their faith in [Jesus](#), including at quarterback, the most visible position in sports.

Here are seven quarterbacks in this year's playoffs who aren't afraid to speak openly about their faith in [Jesus](#):

Houston's C.J. Stroud

Stroud missed three games due to a concussion but nevertheless played a key role in the Texans' resurgence, helping his team finish 12-5 after a 3-5 start. He is in his third year as a starter.

Stroud often references his Christian faith in postgame interviews.

“I always tell people, it's not me – it's Him. [There's] nothing I can do to ever repay what the Lord has done in my life,” Stroud said in 2024. “And I don't want to – I just want to act in what He's calling me to do. And I'm not perfect, I make mistakes every day. But at the same time, I know the God I serve is a forgiving and graceful God.”

His Instagram bio reads: “Child of Jesus Christ.”

Jacksonville's Trevor Lawrence

Lawrence enjoyed a breakout year in his fifth year with 4,007 passing yards – fifth in the league – and a career-high 29 touchdowns. The Jaguars won the AFC South, finishing 13-4.

“It's something I really want to be known about me,” Lawrence told the Times-Union in 2024, referencing his faith. “I wouldn't be who I am if it wasn't for my faith or my

relationship with Jesus. It's the biggest thing in my life. I know the peace that it's given me, especially in this crazy job that we have."

Faith, he said in 2021, "puts things in perspective."

San Francisco's Brock Purdy

Purdy missed nearly half the season due to injuries but helped the 49ers win six of their final seven games to finish 12-5. His quarterback rating (100.5) was eighth in the league.

An outspoken Christian, Purdy this season chose a Christian ministry – Samaritan's Purse – as the organization that benefited from his participation in the NFL's My Cause My Cleats campaign. His Instagram bio reads, "Follower of Jesus."

He was the very last pick in the 2022 NFL Draft.

"I honestly think this is a testament to God and where He's taking me in life. I've never been the biggest, the fastest, the strongest or any of that," he said in 2024, reflecting on his journey. "I feel like I've always sort of had to fight for what I get and work for what I get. But God's always given me an opportunity, whether that was in high school, college, and then obviously in the NFL."

New England's Drake Maye

Maye enjoyed a breakthrough season, leading the league in completion percentage (72 percent) and quarterback rating (113.5) as the Patriots won the AFC East with a 14-3 record. He's in his second year.

"I'm blessed and thankful," he said in 2024. "I have a great family, I'm at a great spot in my life and just trying to take advantage of the opportunities that I have. I'm grateful for this team and this organization. I'm here for the Good Lord and blessed for all that He's given to me, and His purpose."

His Instagram bio reads, "Jesus, Husband, Quarterback."

Denver's Bo Nix

Playing in his second season, Nix guided the Broncos to the AFC's No. 1 seed behind a steady performance that produced 3,931 yards and 25 touchdowns. Denver is 14-3.

"My faith is really important to me," Nix told [Sports Spectrum](#). "I've always been a faith-based person. I believe that God has a plan for me and my life. I truly believe that He has set this path in front of me, and He put me here in Denver for a reason. That's why honestly, through the process, I wasn't nervous or anxious about it one bit. I knew that I was going to go to the right spot, and the right spot is here."

"... You just have to trust and believe that His plans are higher than your ways."

His Instagram bio reads, “Jesus saves.”

Carolina's Bryce Young

The third-year starter led the Panthers to their first postseason appearance since 2017 with a workmanlike 3,011 passing yards and 23 touchdowns – both career highs. Carolina finished 8-9 – 8-8 with him as the starter – after going 2-14 and 3-8 with him on the field in his first two seasons.

His social media bio reads: “Follower of Christ.”

“First and foremost, all glory goes to God. Without Him, I’m nothing,” Young told Fox Sports after a win over Atlanta this season. “He’s the reason for everything. All glory goes to Him.”

Philadelphia's Jalen Hurts

Hurts led the Eagles to an 11-6 record and NFC East title this year on their quest to repeat as Super Bowl champions.

“God is good. He's greater than all the highs and the lows,” Hurts told a national television Fox audience after the Super Bowl win.

Hurts told [Sports Spectrum](#) his faith is central to his life.

"I think my faith has always been a part of me, where I've always wanted to root myself in that and keep Him in the center of my life and everything that I do," Hurts said. "And so through the highs and the lows, He's greater than all of them. And that's something that I can always acknowledge. ... I can always lean on and remember."