



SIGNS OF THE TIMES

News Articles for Episode 407

[Leading Rabbi says the Messiah could arrive Thursday, cites 500-year-old book naming the Strait of Hormuz as site of final war | Israel 365 News.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #messiah, #rabbi, #hormuz, #return

Mar 17, 2026

A respected Israeli rabbi is making a striking claim: the Messiah will be announced this Thursday, *Rosh Chodesh Nisan*, the first day of the Hebrew month of Nisan and the beginning of the Biblical calendar year. According to [Rabbi Baruch Rosenblum](#), a leading rabbinical figure known throughout Israel, the timing is tied directly to one of the most strategically volatile waterways on earth, currently the focus of the war between the US and Iran: the Strait of Hormuz.

“God willing, *Rosh Chodesh* of Nisan, the beginning of the Biblical calendar year, is this Thursday, and there will be an announcement,” Rabbi Rosenblum declared in a lecture that has [been circulating widely](#). “The radio will broadcast from Jerusalem, and in five minutes, we will hear a warning: the Messiah has arrived.”

The Jewish calendar designates Nisan as the first month, the month of redemption. The Exodus from Egypt occurred in Nisan. The future redemption, the Sages teach, will also come in Nisan. Rabbi Rosenblum cited this teaching directly: “Our Sages teach that the first month of the Hebrew calendar, Nisan, sets the tone for the entire year. Messiah is predicted to come on the first day of Nisan, this Thursday.”

The Sages connect this expectation to the destruction of *Amalek*, the archetypal enemy of Israel. “What remains of the war against our enemies? We must finish them, particularly the leaders, by this Thursday,” Rosenblum said. He then made a striking remark: “I joked with President Trump, saying, ‘You must finish the job by Thursday.’ God willing, he will bring in the necessary resources, like B2 bombers, and the mission will be completed.”

The theological and geopolitical core of Rabbi Rosenblum’s lecture rests on the *Kli Paz*, a commentary on the book of *Yeshayahu* (Isaiah) written approximately 500 years ago by Rabbi Shmuel Laniado.

“*A slaughter (zevach) for Hashem in Botzra, and a great slaughter in the land of Edom*” (Isaiah 34:6).

Botzra, also rendered Bozrah, is an ancient city, historically the capital of Edom, southeast of the Dead Sea. It appears throughout the prophetic books as a symbol of divine judgment. But Rabbi Laniado’s *Kli Paz* identified it with something that would

not make sense to readers of his era, and yet maps with unsettling precision onto today's headlines.

Rabbi Rosenblum quoted the *Kli Paz* directly: "There is a city far from Babylonia [Iraq] called *Botzra*, and it is located between the borders of *Ashur* [Assyria] and *Paras* [Persia, today Iran] and the border of the land of Edom. It is called Hormuz, and today it is under the rule of the Ishmaelites... perhaps the war at the end of days will go through there."

Rabbi Rosenblum elaborated on the same passage in Isaiah 63, which speaks of a great slaughter "from above" involving huge *re'amim*, mighty beasts, descending from the sky. The *Kli Paz* interpreted these as warrior-like creatures that would rain down destruction. "Many huge *re'amim*, roaming warrior-like beasts — aircraft and drones — and with them *abirim*, like powerful healthy bulls — aircraft carriers," Rosenblum explained, reading the ancient imagery through a modern military lens. "The day of vengeance is for God, and it is very near the completion of years of Hashem defending and protecting, fighting for Zion."

The commentary concludes with a statement that Rabbi Rosenblum quoted with emphasis: "*Blessed is the one who knows the truth of these matters.*"

Iran, Hormuz, and the Final War

Rabbi Rosenblum grounded his teaching in current events with precision. "Currently, Iran is attempting to place bombs in the Strait of Hormuz to disrupt global oil flow, which would affect one-third of the world's oil supply," he stated.

He then pointed to President Trump's response as itself carrying prophetic weight. "President Trump acted decisively when God sent him a warning via a near-miss bullet. He has already neutralized 20 boats in the strait and warned that if Iran continues, he will ensure the passage remains open."

For Rabbi Rosenblum, this is the unfolding of what Isaiah and the *Kli Paz* described centuries ago. "Perhaps this will be the site of the final war," he said.

The Condition: It Depends on the Jews

Rabbi Rosenblum placed a condition squarely on the Jewish people. "Victory depends on adherence to Torah and repentance. Whether Messiah comes this Thursday depends on us — our readiness to welcome him."

He connected this to the foundational covenant: "Every Jew knows the essence of the Torah's message: God is one, and we must love Him with all our heart and deeds. Observing the Torah ensures blessings, rain, and fruitfulness in the land. Disobedience brings exile and hardship."

He also addressed the reality that many Jews still live in the *galut*, exile, outside the land of Israel. “Not all Jews can currently return to Israel, but perhaps miracles will enable their arrival. Miracles are easier when Jews are in the land.”

Rabbi Rosenblum’s message demands action, repentance, and return. But it also carries something that cannot be manufactured: the weight of prophecy meeting the precision of current events, in a year that already feels like no other.

Russia Is Sharing Satellite Imagery and Drone Technology With Iran | The Wall Street Journal.com

#bibleprophecy, #russia, #iran, #drones, #military

Mar 17, 2026

Russia has been expanding its intelligence sharing and military cooperation with Iran, providing satellite imagery and improved drone technology to aid Tehran's targeting of U.S. forces in the region, people familiar with the matter said.

Russia is trying to keep its closest Middle Eastern partner in the fight against U.S. and Israeli military might and prolong a war that is benefiting Russia militarily and economically.

[US allies rebuff Trump's request for support in Strait of Hormuz | MSN.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #united states, #countries, #war, #hormuz

Mar 16, 2026

BERLIN/BRUSSELS/LONDON, March 16 (Reuters) - Several U.S. allies said on Monday they had no immediate plans to send ships to unblock the Strait of Hormuz, rebuffing a request by President Donald Trump for military support to keep the vital waterway open.

Trump called on nations to help police the strait after Iran responded to U.S.-Israeli attacks by using drones, missiles and mines to effectively close the channel for tankers that normally transport a fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas.

Germany, Spain and Italy were among allies that ruled out participating in any mission in the Gulf, at least for now. Other countries were more circumspect, with Britain and Denmark saying they would consider ways they might help, but emphasising a need to de-escalate and avoid getting dragged into the war.

"What does (...) Donald Trump expect a handful or two handfuls of European frigates to do in the Strait of Hormuz that the powerful U.S. Navy cannot do?" German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius said in Berlin on Monday, as he downplayed threats by Trump that failing to come to Washington's aid could have consequences for the NATO alliance.

"This is not our war, we have not started it," he added.

The conflict has nothing to do with NATO and Germany has no plans to be drawn into it, German government spokesperson Stefan Kornelius said.

"Neither the United States nor Israel consulted us before the war, and ... Washington explicitly stated at the outset of the war that European assistance was neither necessary nor desired," the spokesperson said.

Spain said it would not do anything that could escalate the conflict, while Italian Deputy Prime Minister Matteo Salvini said sending military ships to a war zone would be interpreted as joining the conflict.

"Italy is not at war with anyone and sending military ships in a war zone would mean entering the war," Salvini told reporters in Milan.

NATO countries, several of whom have been at the sharp end of criticism from Trump in recent months, are wary of angering the White House, and some signalled willingness to help find a solution, even if plans remain vague for now.

EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said the bloc was in talks with the United Nations about replicating a deal that had been used to allow grain to be exported out of Ukraine during its war with Russia.

EU DISCUSSING MANDATE OF RED SEA MISSION

The EU is also discussing whether it could change the mandate of its Middle East naval mission, Aspides, which currently protects ships in the Red Sea from attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebel group, to include the Strait of Hormuz, Kallas said.

But Greece, which leads the Aspides mission, will limit its participation in the Middle East to the Red Sea, said government spokesman Pavlos Marinakis.

Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer, whose reluctance to help the initial U.S. attacks drew sharp criticism from Trump, said Britain would work with allies on a collective plan to secure freedom of navigation through the strait.

But he said this would not be easy, and he reiterated that the UK would not be drawn into a wider war. Britain has autonomous mine-hunting systems that could be used, Starmer said.

Denmark, traditionally one of the most enthusiastic NATO allies but which has clashed with Trump over his demands that it cede Greenland, said the EU should consider helping reopen the strait even if it didn't agree with the war.

"Even if we don't like what's going on, I think it's wise to keep an open mind on whether Europe ... in some way can contribute, but with a view towards de-escalation," Danish Foreign Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen said.

Dutch Foreign Minister Tom Berendsen said that were NATO to agree any mission in the Gulf it would take time to draw up a framework.

"These are weighty decisions, and any action must be both feasible and impactful. At this moment, no decision is on the table," Berendsen said on Monday in Brussels.

[How China Funds Iran: Oil, Sanctions Evasion, and the Shadow Banking Network | The Gateway Pundit.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #economy, #iran, #china, #oil

Mar 17, 2026

China and Iran have built a broad strategic partnership over several decades, encompassing economic, diplomatic, and [security cooperation](#), much of which runs counter to U.S. foreign policy interests.

The [U.S.-China Economic and Security](#) Review Commission has identified the two countries as part of an informal “[Axis of Autocracy](#)” alongside Russia and North Korea, a grouping united by a shared interest in challenging U.S. global leadership and reshaping the international order to favor authoritarian governance.

China views Iran as a partner in balancing U.S. influence in the Middle East and as a supplier of discounted energy. Iran depends on China for export revenue and diplomatic cover. The relationship is asymmetric: Iran needs China far more than China needs Iran. Beijing maintains competing relationships with Saudi Arabia and the UAE, each of which accounted for \$108 billion in two-way trade with China in 2025, compared to [\\$41.2 billion with Iran](#), including [unreported oil imports](#), giving Beijing reason to limit how openly it supports Tehran.

The formal foundation of the relationship is a 25-year comprehensive strategic partnership agreement signed in 2021, covering economic, security, and technological cooperation. China pledged up to \$400 billion in investment over the life of the agreement, though little has been actualized due to Chinese companies’ [reluctance to risk sanctions](#) exposure. A Wall Street Journal investigation in October 2025 reported that a Chinese state-owned enterprise, Sinosure, may have secretly facilitated up to [\\$8.4 billion](#) in investment in 2024 through an oil-for-infrastructure arrangement.

China is Iran’s largest trading partner and the primary buyer of its oil, purchasing roughly 90 percent of Iran’s exported crude, often at a discount of [\\$8 to \\$10 per barrel](#) below the global benchmark. In 2025, China imported approximately 1.4 million barrels per day of Iranian oil, representing about 12 percent of its total crude imports.

Chinese customs authorities do not officially report these imports; instead, they falsely attribute the oil’s origin to Malaysia, Oman, and the UAE. The true value of Iranian crude exports to China in 2025 was approximately \$31.2 billion, comprising more than 75 percent of total bilateral trade when added to the \$9.96 billion in officially reported trade.

Oil revenue from China accounts for roughly [45 percent of Iran's](#) government budget. That revenue funds Iran's regional activities, including support for Hezbollah, Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the Houthis, and other Iran-aligned militia groups.

Iran's oil reaches China through a shadow fleet of aging tankers that obscure their activity by sailing under foreign flags, disabling tracking transponders, spoofing their GPS locations, and conducting ship-to-ship transfers at sea. The oil is then processed by a network of independent "teapot" refineries in China that operate largely outside the [international financial system](#).

Payment is facilitated through front companies and small regional banks using false addresses and fake invoices, often routed through Hong Kong, with proceeds laundered into the global financial system through the financial arms of Iranian oil companies, local money exchanges, and front companies affiliated with Iran's Ministry of Defense. Offshore accounts under Chinese jurisdiction are used in part to finance the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, Hezbollah, Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the Houthis, and other Iran-aligned groups.

As of November 2025, 366 China- and Hong Kong-based entities were on the U.S. Treasury's Specially Designated Nationals list for Iran-related sanctions violations. More than [100 Chinese and Hong Kong entities](#) have been added to the Commerce Department's Entity List for assisting Iran's export control evasion over the past eight years.

UN sanctions on Iran, lifted under the 2015 [Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action](#), were reimposed in September 2025 after France, Germany, and the United Kingdom invoked a snapback mechanism citing Iran's failure to meet its commitments. China, which had been a party to the JCPOA, opposed the snapback.

China has also supported Iran's integration into alternative multilateral institutions, backing its entry into the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in 2023 and BRICS in 2024. These memberships bring Iran into closer alignment with China and Russia and help insulate it from Western pressure. Following U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran beginning in late February 2026, BRICS issued a statement expressing concern but took no position on the strikes, reflecting the limits of the group's cohesion.

China's financial support for Iran is reinforced by its diplomatic protection at the United Nations. When France, Germany, and the United Kingdom triggered the JCPOA snapback mechanism in August 2025, citing Iran's sustained non-performance of its nuclear commitments, China and Russia blocked the reimposition of UN sanctions, arguing that the snapback had not been legally activated and that the Security Council no longer had a mandate to consider [Iran's nuclear file](#).

After the sanctions were nonetheless reimposed on September 27, 2025, Beijing continued to obstruct enforcement. In March 2026, China and Russia blocked the U.S.-

drafted Security Council programme of work because it included a briefing on the 1737 Sanctions Committee, whose authority both countries refuse to recognize.

This diplomatic cover renders multilateral enforcement mechanisms functionally inoperable, leaving unilateral U.S. action as the primary tool for constraining the relationship. The tens of billions of dollars in annual oil revenue that China provides fund not only Iran's government but its proxy network, including Hamas, the Houthis, and Hezbollah, which are destabilizing the Middle East.

Severing or seriously disrupting that financial and technological lifeline through sanctions pressure on Chinese banks, refineries, and shell companies, and through enforcement action against the shadow fleet.

[Russia Shuts Off Internet in Moscow as It Tests Nationwide Censorship System | The Wall Street Journal.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #russia, #internet, #censored, #moscow

Mar 14, 2026

Russia is stepping up its tests of systems designed to keep millions of people from accessing information online in times of political unrest, shutting off mobile internet access in the capital in recent days.

People in Moscow, a city of 13 million, have found themselves unable to pay online bills or message co-workers in recent days. Commuters stepping out of the city's subway stations can't order a cab to the office. Unable to access online maps, many are asking strangers for directions for the first time in years. Those who normally work from home are filling cafes as they seek a stable Wi-Fi connection.

In recent months, dozens of Russian regions have gone offline suddenly. The Kremlin has defended the shut-offs as necessary to protect Russians from attacks by Ukrainian drones, which can use local cellphone towers for navigation.

But analysts say what Russians are actually experiencing is the trial of a nationwide system Moscow has been honing to limit information and hobble connectivity in times of upheaval, inspired by lessons from Iran and other authoritarian states.

[Microsoft Launches Co-Pilot Feature That Gives Medical Advice | Forbes.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #microsoft, #healthcare, #ai, #medical records

Mar 12, 2026

Microsoft [announced](#) a new Copilot feature that can access users' private medical records and deliver "personalized health insights that you can act on," joining other AI titans in the push toward "medical superintelligence" as the medical community voices concerns.

Key Facts

The feature, called Copilot Health, works by combining health records, data from wearable devices like smart watches and health history provided by the user via AI.

Copilot Health connects to real-time U.S. provider directories so users can search for clinicians by specialty, location, languages spoken and insurance coverage.

Microsoft has become the latest Big Tech firm foraying into AI for medical use, joining [Google](#), OpenAI (which introduced [ChatGPT Health](#) in January) and Amazon, which launched Health AI assistant this week.

It isn't meant to "replace your doctor," Microsoft said, but is more time-efficient.

The service will be made available through a phased rollout, with a waitlist opening on Thursday.

Chief Critics

Physicians at top institutions have raised concerns about users relying on AI for medical advice. In [a study](#) published in "Nature Medicine" last month, researchers simulated real-world usage of AI chatbots for medical advice by presenting participants with health scenarios. After interacting with the bots, participants correctly identified the hypothetical condition only about one-third of the time. Just 43% chose the appropriate next step, such as whether to seek emergency care or remain at home. According [to OpenAI](#), this has become a common usage, with more than 40 million people asking ChatGPT for health advice every day, accounting for more than 5% of all messages to the chatbot. "AI just isn't ready to take on the role of the physician," said author Dr. Rebecca Payne from the University of Oxford. Her co-author, Dr. Andrew Bean, added: "Doctors are trained to ask you questions about symptoms you might not have realized you should have mentioned... people don't know what they are supposed to be telling the model."

Big Number

50 million. That's how many health-related questions Microsoft AI already responds to every day, according to the company.

Tangent

Elon Musk has [repeatedly encouraged](#) X users to use chatbot Grok for medical advice, despite it not having a dedicated health feature. In February, he posted, “Just take a picture of your medical data or upload the file to get a second opinion from Grok,” to which the chatbot itself pushed back by saying it's not a medical professional and strongly recommending users not to share “sensitive info” in the replies.

[2 People Dead, 11 Others ‘Seriously Ill’ amid University Outbreak of Still-Unidentified Virus Strain People.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #russia, #internet, #censored, #moscow

Mar 14, 2026

NEED TO KNOW

- Two people, including a University of Kent student, have died as multiple invasive meningococcal disease cases near the school were reported to U.K. health officials
- Health officials are providing antibiotics to students and investigating after 13 people in the area showed “signs and symptoms of meningitis and septicemia” between March 13 and March 15
- The specific strain has not been identified as of Sunday, March 15, health officials said

Two people are dead, and 11 more are "seriously ill," as a result of an outbreak of invasive meningococcal disease at a university in Canterbury, England.

From Friday, March 13, to Sunday, March 15, 13 different cases of individuals with “signs and symptoms of meningitis and septicemia” at the University of Kent were reported to the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), the organization said in a statement shared with PEOPLE.

As of Sunday, two of the individuals have died. One of them was a student, a university spokesperson confirmed to PEOPLE.

Along with the U.K.'s National Health Service, the UKHSA said it is arranging antibiotics “for some students in the Canterbury area of Kent following a number of cases of invasive meningococcal disease.”

Meningococcal disease “is an uncommon but very serious infection” whose two most common syndromes are meningitis and septicemia, per the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#). The specific strain has not been identified as of Sunday, according to the UKHSA.

The agency said that it, along with the University of Kent, is "issuing advice to staff and students," and UKHSA specialists are currently “interviewing affected individuals and their families to help identify all close contacts and arrange antibiotics to limit spread.”

The outbreak is thought to be linked to a party held in Canterbury that some of the students who became sick attended, according to the [BBC](#).

A spokesperson for the University of Kent told PEOPLE on Sunday, “We are deeply saddened to confirm that one student from the University of Kent has died following a case of invasive meningitis. Our thoughts are with the student’s family, friends and the wider university community at this extremely difficult time.”

The spokesperson continued, “The safety of our students and staff remains our highest priority. We are working closely with public health teams and are in touch with staff and students to ensure they get the advice and support they need. We will continue to monitor the situation and keep our community informed.”

Meningitis is “the swelling of the lining of the brain and spinal cord,” according to the [Meningitis Research Foundation](#), while septicemia “is blood poisoning caused by the same germs as meningitis and is life-threatening.”

Septicemia occurs “when bacteria enters the bloodstream, causing blood poisoning which triggers sepsis. Sepsis is an overwhelming and life-threatening response to infection that can lead to tissue damage, organ failure and death,” the foundation’s website states. “Both meningitis and sepsis can kill in hours.”

In a statement, Trish Mannes, UKHSA’s Regional Deputy Director for the South East, said meningococcal disease “can progress rapidly,” so it is important to be alert to signs and symptoms, which “can include a fever, headache, rapid breathing, drowsiness, shivering, vomiting and cold hands and feet.”

“Septicemia can also cause a characteristic rash that does not fade when pressed against a glass,” Mannes added.

The UKHSA regional director also said that college students “are particularly at risk of missing the early warning signs of meningitis because they can be easily confused with other illnesses such as a bad cold, flu or even a hangover.”

“That’s why it’s vital that, if a friend goes to bed unwell, you check on them regularly and don’t hesitate to seek medical help by contacting their GP or calling NHS 111 if they have these symptoms or you’re concerned about them,” Mannes instructed. “This could save their life.”

“Anyone becoming unwell with symptoms of meningitis and septicemia should seek medical help urgently at the closest Accident and Emergency Department or by dialling 999,” the UKHSA echoed in a statement. “Early treatment can be lifesaving.”

Rosie Duffield, the Member of Parliament for Canterbury, shared a statement of support [on X](#) for the families and friends of those who died due to the outbreak.

“Some really tragic news this weekend from our university in Canterbury,” Duffield wrote. “Rumors have been flying around for a few days, but you always hope for better news to come. Thinking very much of those who loved these students.”

[Christians Remain the Most Persecuted Religious Group Globally, Archbishop States | Crosswalk.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #christians, #persecution, #global, #religion

Mar 16, 2026

Globally, Christianity remains the most persecuted religion, with hundreds of millions facing violence and discrimination, prompting a UN representative to call for strengthened governmental protections for religious freedom.

The Holy See's representative to the United Nations in Geneva is urging governments to strengthen protections for religious freedom as Christianity remains the most persecuted religious group worldwide.

Archbishop Ettore Balestrero, the Holy See's Permanent Observer to the United Nations, spoke at an event titled "[Standing with Persecuted Christians: Defending the Faith and Christian Values](#)" on March 3, where he noted that hundreds of millions of Christians are persecuted for their faith, [The Christian Post](#) reported.

"Almost 400 million Christians worldwide face persecution or violence, making them the most persecuted religious community in the world," he said. "This means that one in seven Christians is affected."

He also cited several figures, including the fact that nearly 5,000 Christians were killed for their faith in 2025, an average of around 13 deaths each day. He added that over 760 anti-Christian attacks occurred in Europe in 2024, plus 2,211 recorded incidents involving legal action against individuals for activities like silent [prayer](#) or quoting scripture that same year, as reported by the Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians in Europe.

The archbishop contended that governments are responsible for protecting freedom of religion for believers.

"It is the State's duty to protect freedom of religion or belief," he said.

Archbishop Balestrero also stated that freedom of religion is a fundamental human right recognized in international law. He added that the government must protect believers and not prevent them from practicing their faith both publicly and privately.

The archbishop concluded his address by describing that Christian persecution is ultimately an attack on the deeper spiritual and social values represented by [the cross](#). He argued that protecting freedom of religion not only protects believers "to respond freely to the call of truth," but it also preserves human dignity and social harmony.

Additional sources have also supported the rampant persecution of Christians around the globe.

The [Open Doors World Watch List 2026](#) found that 388 million Christians currently face severe persecution and discrimination, up 8 million from the previous year.

[7-Ton Asteroid Enters Earth's Atmosphere, Explodes, Breaks into Pieces over Cleveland | Breitbart.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #asteroid, #meteorites, #cleveland

Mar 17, 2026

A seven-ton asteroid nearly six feet in diameter entered Earth's atmosphere on Tuesday morning before exploding and breaking into pieces over a suburb in Cleveland, Ohio, according to NASA.

The fireball that Northeast Ohio residents saw, as well as the explosion they heard at 9:00 a.m. this morning, was an asteroid that broke apart over the greater Cleveland area, NASA [said](#).

"The asteroid unleashed an energy of 250 tons of TNT when it fragmented, resulting in a pressure wave which propagated to the ground, causing the booms and explosive noises heard by many of the public," the agency explained.

NASA added that, in addition to Ohio, "many eyewitnesses" reported seeing the fireball in Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington, D.C., and Ontario, Canada.

Moving southeast at 40,000 miles per hour, the asteroid traveled over 34 miles through the upper atmosphere before breaking into pieces 30 miles above Valley City in Medina County, Ohio — a suburb southwest of Cleveland.

Fragments from the asteroid — which "may have also shook houses north of Medina" — ended up producing meteorites that may now be scattered about Medina County, NASA said.

After an asteroid — which orbits the sun — breaks off and burns up in Earth's atmosphere, it becomes a meteor. The fireball was first spotted 50 miles above Lake Erie, off the beaches of Lorain in northern Ohio.

Residents across Northeast Ohio who heard and felt the explosion [took to social media](#) to ask if anyone knew what created the loud "boom."

Others, meanwhile, called the police on the asteroid, resulting in at least one city texting residents, asking them to stop calling 9-1-1.

Minutes later — before NASA confirmed the seven-ton asteroid — the National Weather Service in Cleveland [announced](#) that "the boom was a result of a meteor."

Those who caught the fireball on camera shared the footage to social media.

Many others in Northeast Ohio posted videos that played the loud “boom” sound captured on their home surveillance cameras.

[The E-Nose Knows: AI Learns to Smell | The Wall Street Journal.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #ai, #e-nose, #technology, #smelling

Mar 17, 2026

AI can already see, hear, read and speak. Now researchers are teaching it to smell.

Over the past few years, scientists have been developing and refining a technology called the e-nose—which is exactly what it sounds like. These systems detect and distinguish aromas, sometimes with about 1,000 times as much precision as humans can, and without the loss of sensitivity that comes when our noses get accustomed to an odor. AI can then scrutinize those smells, and the tech can figure out, for instance, exactly what volatile gases comprise a scent, in what combination, and what those combinations mean.

And they can mean quite a lot. Right now, researchers are exploring—or even commercializing—e-nose systems that can scan a person’s breath to detect deadly infections, sniff the air in a building to seek out signs of potential contaminants, or even develop perfumes more quickly and cheaply than before.

The path to the perfect e-nose, however, isn’t a smooth one. That’s because getting an AI to identify smells is very different from having it analyze images. Many environmental factors can affect the accuracy of e-noses—including the humidity, how widely a smell is dispersed, and even how it is “inhaled” by the device, says Haritosh Patel, a postdoctoral fellow studying biologically inspired engineering at Harvard’s School of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

[Some Israelis are Turning to Faith Amid Ongoing War | Christianity Today.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #jews, #israelis, #faith, #salvation, #yeshua

Mar 17, 2026

The day after the Hamas attacks of October 7, 2023, Elisha Lazarus—a Messianic believer and reservist in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF)—reported to a top-secret base in northern Israel as part of his Iron Dome defense unit.

The assault caught the nation by surprise, and many in his unit feared [Hezbollah](#) would launch a similar cross-border attack from Lebanon. Lazarus saw IDF helicopters circling above and fled with his unit to a bunker seven floors below ground, carved into a mountain.

There he watched 20 to 25 soldiers line up near a tiny underground synagogue. “All these people that probably haven’t gone in there in the past 20 years—you see them in there praying,” Lazarus told *Christianity Today*. “There’s [a saying](#): You don’t have any atheists in the foxhole.” Lazarus said that many of the soldiers lined up outside the synagogue acknowledged they were atheists who in that moment felt the need to seek God.

The Hamas attacks exposed vulnerabilities in ways previous wars had not. For decades, Israel protected its citizens by building bomb shelters and missile defense systems. Yet on October 7, the nation failed to protect them, resulting in the deadliest day for Jews since the Holocaust and igniting a multifront war.

In April and October 2024, Tehran fired missiles at Israel in the first direct attacks from Iranian territory. Last year, Israeli strikes targeting Iranian nuclear sites resulted in waves of ballistic missiles toward Israel. And on February 28 of this year, Israel and the United States launched a weekslong campaign to degrade Iran’s military capabilities. As of March 11, [two Israeli soldiers](#) have died in the conflict, and 13 Israeli civilians.

This conflict has since evolved into a wider regional confrontation with [differing perspectives](#) on a timeline for resolution. As Israelis face an uncertain future, many are open to conversations about faith, according to Christians CT interviewed.

“There is a seeking, because when people lose the sense of control in their lives, and they see that it’s not in their hands and death is even imminent at times, they look for God, and they look for answers,” said Lazarus, who is also a content creator for Jews for Jesus.

Recent studies bear out that conclusion. According to a November [poll](#) by the Jewish People Policy Institute, 27 percent of Jewish Israelis have increased their religious observance since the war against Hamas began, with roughly one-third reporting they are praying more frequently. Close to 20 percent are reading Jewish Scriptures more often.

Some Israelis are even exploring Christianity. [Aaron Abramson](#), CEO and executive director of [Jews for Jesus](#), said his staff in Israel has seen increased interest in hearing about Jesus and discipleship in recent years. According to Abramson, last year, the number of people interested in studying the Bible increased by 10 percent compared to the year prior, and 30 percent more people were willing to go deeper spiritually.

Staff members have also observed a steady rise in Israelis professing faith in Christ, including some from ultra-Orthodox backgrounds.

In the year following the October 7 attacks, 25 Israelis accepted Christ through Abramson's organization. While that number was slightly lower than in previous years, in the war's second year, professions of faith jumped to 147.

He doesn't believe it is a mass revival but rather an "open door and steady response." Rising antisemitism and regional instability have left many Jewish Israelis "anxious and wondering where their help comes from," he added.

Abramson said pastors across the country report similar patterns and a steady stream of baptisms—three there, six here, five there.

David Zadok, pastor of Grace and Truth Congregation in Kanot, Israel, said 15 people—primarily young adults averaging 24 years old—have come to faith in Christ at his church of approximately 160 people since 2023. All are in discipleship programs and regularly attend church, he noted.

During one of his baptismal classes, he sat between a Jewish soldier from an IDF tank unit and an Israeli Arab of similar age. Two of the 15 new believers are Arab, he noted, bringing the number of Christian Arabs in his church to four.

Zadok believes part of the spiritual openness stems from misplaced trust. For years, Israelis placed their trust in the "chariots and horses" mentioned in Psalm 20:7. "We have put our trust in our Iron Dome, in our military, in our Mossad, and everything else," he said. "Within two to three hours [of the Hamas massacre], everything we put our hope in was gone," he added.

Zadok said many soldiers have become more religious in the past year or two due to battlefield experiences that have created a "spiritual hunger." He recalled one Messianic Jewish soldier whose vehicle overturned in Gaza. His machine gun seemed to be miraculously positioned straight into the ground, holding the vehicle just centimeters away from his chest and saving the soldier from certain death. "He really believed it was a miracle," Zadok said.

One soldier from his congregation came to faith in Christ after a near-death experience in the wake of the Hamas attacks. Twice, Hamas fired upon his reserve unit while they were positioning with mortars landing less than a football field away. The experience confirmed for him God's existence and led him to "come to him, surrender, and seek his forgiveness," he told CT. "I know he protected me before, and if he wills, he will continue to do so. If not, I will simply go to him."

CT granted the soldier anonymity due to his concerns about ongoing threats to IDF soldiers and their families.

The presence of Christian soldiers serving in various IDF combat units has also contributed to the increased interest in God, Zadok noted. He estimates at least 550 believing soldiers are serving, including his 21-year-old son who is currently stationed in Gaza. [Israel](#) has around 170,000 active-duty personnel and close to 450,000 reservists.

Zadok's church delivers Purim packages to Messianic believers serving in active duty and has partnered with other churches to compile a list of 300 soldiers for future package deliveries. Zadok said approximately the same number of Christians are serving as reservists.

They are often the only believers in their units, Zadok added. That was true during his years as a major in the IDF and has also been the case for his two daughters and his son. Their presence provides opportunities "not just to share the gospel, but to show the gospel and to talk about the hope that they have," he said.

Christians make up about [2 percent](#) of Israel's [9.6 million](#) people.

Lazarus said he is the only Christian in his unit, and during his swearing-in ceremony 15 years ago, he was the only soldier out of 200 who asked to take his oath on the New Testament instead of the [Tanakh](#), or Hebrew Bible.

He has encountered one other Messianic Jewish soldier during his tenure in the military, yet he said the IDF is accepting of other faiths and traditions. For example, last summer Israel began [drafting](#) ultra-Orthodox men—previously exempt from service—while [accommodating](#) their religious practices by permitting time for prayer, gender segregation, and strict kosher food requirements.

Lazarus said many of his military friends have watched his Jews for Jesus YouTube channel. And while he shares his faith during times of both war and peace, he believes this moment is different. Israelis are more open and he wants them to understand the hope he has in Christ.

His unit reported for duty weeks prior to the Israel-US attack against Iran on February 28, a "heart-dropping" moment when he realized conflict was be on the horizon. "I'm not scared to die," Lazarus said. "I know about my future."

Even as he protects his homeland, Lazarus prays for his enemies and the innocent lives on both sides of the conflict. "I'm praying for everybody to know the true peace that Yeshua gives us," he said.