



SIGNS OF THE TIMES

News Articles for Episode 400

Russia, Turkey seeking US-Iran talks to stave off conflict amid Trump's threats | Times of Israel.com

#bibleprophecy, #russia, #turkey, #iran, #united states

Jan 29, 2026

Kremlin spokesperson warns of 'very dangerous consequences' if force used; officials say Turkish FM will offer mediation during meeting with Iranian counterpart

Russia and Turkey are pushing for negotiations in the standoff between Tehran and Washington after US President Donald Trump threatened new military strikes on Iran.

"It is clear that the potential for negotiations is not exhausted," spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists on Thursday, adding: "Any use of force can only create chaos in the region and lead to very dangerous consequences."

Peskov's comments came a day after Trump [urged](#) Iran to come to the table and make a deal on nuclear weapons or face a possible US attack.

Trump has threatened military intervention against Iran over its crackdown on protests, which rights groups say killed thousands. However, rhetoric on the issue has shifted in recent days so that the threat of military action is hanging over Tehran unless it returns to the talks on the issue of its contentious [nuclear program](#).

A US naval strike group arrived in Middle East waters on Monday with Trump warning it was "ready, willing and able" to hit Iran "if necessary."

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Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Iran and Russia have deepened ties, with Western countries accusing Iran of providing missiles and drones for Russian attacks, though Tehran denies that.

The two countries also [signed](#) a "strategic partnership" treaty last year.

Meanwhile, Turkey's foreign minister will offer to mediate between the two countries during a visit by his Iranian counterpart on Friday, officials said, as Ankara considers reinforcing security along its border should the dispute escalate.

Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan will tell Araghchi on Friday that his country "is ready to contribute to resolving the current tensions through dialogue," a Turkish diplomatic source said.

Fidan would reiterate Turkey's opposition "to military interventions against Iran... [over] the regional and global risks such a step would entail," said the source, requesting anonymity because of the sensitivity of the talks.

The minister had on Wednesday stressed the need for Washington and Tehran to resume discussions over the Iranian nuclear program, suggesting that it was the top priority to be resolved.

"It's wrong to attack Iran. It's wrong to start the war again. Iran is ready to negotiate on the nuclear file again," Fidan had told Al-Jazeera television.

"Turkey supports reaching a peaceful solution to Iran's nuclear program in the near term and is ready to provide assistance if needed in this regard," the foreign ministry source said.

Contingency plans

Alongside its diplomatic push, Ankara is assessing additional security precautions along its border with Iran if a US strike destabilizes the country, a senior Turkish official told AFP.

"If the United States attacks Iran and the regime falls, Turkey is planning additional measures to reinforce border security," said the official, who also requested anonymity.

Much of the 500-kilometer (310-mile) frontier is secured by a wall, but "it has proven insufficient," the official said.

The Turkish authorities have so far avoided the term "buffer zone," but options under review include deploying more troops and expanding technological surveillance systems, the official added.

Turkey began building a concrete wall in 2021 as concerns grew about a potential influx of migrants following the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan.

So far, officials say there is no sign of mass movement toward Turkey linked to developments in Iran. Earlier this month, the Turkish defense ministry said it had detected "no evidence" of large-scale migration.

Unmanned aerial vehicles continue to conduct round-the-clock reconnaissance along the frontier.

To date, authorities have completed installation of 203 electro-optical towers, 43 lift towers, 380 kilometers of modular concrete wall, and 553 kilometers of trenches, according to official figures.

Virginia Democrats frustrate law enforcement with bill axing prison time for violent crime, expert warns |

Forxnews.com

#bibleprophecy, #crime, #virginia, #democrats, #laws

Jan 24, 2026

Virginia Democrats propose House Bill 863 to eliminate minimum prison sentences for violent felony crimes including manslaughter, rape and assaulting officers.

A new bill proposed by Democrats in the [Virginia state legislature](#) is raising concerns regarding the removal of minimum prison sentences for various violent felony crimes.

Within days of Democratic Gov. [Abigail Spanberger](#) being sworn in, members of her party introduced a flurry of amendments looking to end mandatory minimum sentences for various crimes within the state.

According to Jason Miyares, the former Republican attorney general, [House Bill 863](#) includes proposals to effectively eliminate minimum sentencing for manslaughter, rape, possession and distribution of child pornography, assaulting a law enforcement officer and other repeat violent felonies.

Additionally, Democrats are also looking to remove the mandatory five-day minimum sentence for certain first-time DUI offenders.

"[HB 863](#) is a common-sense proposal that eliminates the requirement for one-size-fits-all minimum sentences for certain crimes," Delegate Rae Cousins, who sponsored the bill, said, [according to ABC 7](#).

"This change would give the [experienced judges](#) in our communities more discretion to make decisions based on the unique facts of each case. As the General Assembly session continues, I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this legislation and promote fairer outcomes in our justice system."

However, [law enforcement experts](#) are pushing back against the bill while expressing concerns about how the possibility of more lenient sentencing could impact victims of violent crimes.

"From a law enforcement standpoint, I think police generally want offenders to be held accountable, and frustration among law enforcement officers grows when individuals are released quickly and subsequently re-offend – and even more so if it involved a violent felony," law enforcement expert Josh Ederheimer told Fox News Digital. I think

that also tracks the thinking of many members of the public. I think there is more tolerance for flexibility for minor offenses.

Ederheimer, an assistant professor at the University of Virginia's Center for Public Safety and Justice and a retired law enforcement officer, went on to explain that police typically understand unique circumstances that can point to a defendant receiving a lesser sentence, but frustration still exists surrounding more serious crimes.

"For violent felonies, however, the biggest practical concern is that the defendant will re-offend, and that the public is not alerted or aware that the defendant has returned to the community. It's an accountability concern that falls on the shoulders of judges and prosecutors."

The proposed bill would allow courts to hand down sentences based on the individual facts of each case, rather than [statutory mandates](#) implemented by the state's government. However, it does not impact maximum penalties in such cases.

Ederheimer further explained that the bill could have a negative impact on victims and their families regarding accountability for violent offenders.

"I think that the police and public alike have expectations that convicted criminals will be held accountable, and that full sentences should be served," Ederheimer said.

"Mandatory minimums assure victims – and the community – that a convicted person will serve their sentence."

"It is the circumstance when convicted felons are released early that victims may feel a sense of betrayal or that justice was not served. That's the dilemma."

The bill is set to be reviewed by the House and [Senate Justice Committees](#), where it will likely be amended.

However, Ederheimer added that mandatory minimum sentences may not actually encourage violent offenders not to commit crimes, further adding to the complex balance of maintaining justice and community safety.

"From a law enforcement perspective, I don't think mandatory minimums serve as a deterrent," Ederheimer told Fox News Digital. "I think that largely defendants are not focused on repercussions at the time of their offense."

Dramatic surge in antisemitism and violence against Jews worldwide | Israeltoday.co.il

#bibleprophecy, #anti-semitism, #violence, #jews, #persecution, #world

Jan 27, 2026

2025 report: 815 serious antisemitic incidents, 21 murdered – around 124 million antisemitic posts on X and more than 4,000 anti-Israel demonstrations.

On the occasion of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, the Israeli Ministry of Diaspora Affairs and Combating antisemitism has published its annual interim report on global antisemitism trends. The report paints an extremely alarming picture of a clear intensification of antisemitic tendencies worldwide in 2025.

According to the report, 815 serious antisemitic incidents were documented globally in 2025, in which 21 Jewish people were murdered. At the same time, authorities identified around 124 million antisemitic posts on the platform X as well as more than 4,000 anti-Israel demonstrations, some of which escalated into direct incitement against Jews.

The majority of incidents occurred in Western countries, including the United States, United Kingdom, France, Australia, and Canada. This underscores that antisemitism has long become a cross-border security and socio-political challenge. The report also shows a clear correlation between international security events and sudden spikes in violence and incitement.

In addition to physical violence, the report urgently warns of a massive escalation in public perception and opinion-forming: fake news, manipulated images and videos, and deliberately spread false narratives on social networks and in international discourse fuel hatred and contribute to the delegitimization of Jews and Israel.

Amichai Chikli, Minister of Diaspora Affairs and Combating Antisemitism, stated: “On International Holocaust Remembrance Day, we are called not only to remember, but to act. The Ministry stands alongside Jewish communities, monitors and collects information in real time, and pursues the perpetrators of antisemitism and hatred wherever they are. Antisemitism is rising in various arenas – yet our responsibility is not to remain on the defensive, but to go on the offensive. The conference taking place here in Jerusalem today at my invitation illustrates this strategy: dozens of international leaders have come because they understand that antisemitism is not exclusively a Jewish problem, but an expression of a global threat to the free world. Together we will fight – and defeat – the common enemy.”

A report by the World Zionist Organization's Department for Combating Antisemitism also warns of an alarming deterioration in global developments. Released ahead of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, the report states that 2025 was characterized by a “normalization of hatred.” Antisemitism has become a permanent background noise no longer tied to individual events or media “triggers.”

Key findings of the report:

- Clear increase in incidents: In the first eight months of 2025, 4,574 antisemitic incidents were recorded worldwide – a rise of around 10.2 percent compared to the same period last year. On average, about 22 incidents were documented per day.
- Radicalization of language: While politically motivated anti-Israel discourse slightly declined, extreme antisemitic statements – including openly Nazi slogans – rose by 75 to 100 percent.
- Digital sphere and algorithms: Modern antisemitism increasingly appears as a permanent stream, sometimes supported by state actors. Interaction-oriented algorithms on social networks amplify polarizing and extreme content, creating sealed “hate echo chambers.”

Impact on Jewish communities: Open antisemitism is leading to a profound erosion of the sense of security and Jewish identity. Data from the United States show that 55 percent of Jews experienced at least one antisemitic incident in the past year. Behaviors such as removing mezuzot, changing family names, or avoiding religious symbols are becoming more widespread – expressions of a “pragmatism of survival” that threatens cultural continuity and collective resilience.

Yifat Ovadia-Luski, head of the Department for Combating Antisemitism at the World Zionist Organization, stated: “International Holocaust Remembrance Day obliges us not only to remember, but to actively commit to protecting the lives and safety of Jews worldwide. The findings for 2025 reveal an alarming escalation: global antisemitism is no longer a marginal phenomenon, but a sustained development of systematic incitement and violence. One central lesson of history is the need to recognize processes of dehumanization early and to counter them decisively before they escalate into widespread violence. It is time to move from merely recording incidents to a genuine and effective fight.”

[Ice storm threatens Texas to Virginia with widespread power outages, travel shutdowns | AccuWeather.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #winter storm, #ice, #snow, #united states

Jan 25, 2026

A massive ice storm stretching for 1,800 miles in over a dozen states threatens to halt travel and cut power to millions of utility customers. Travel and power could be shut down for days in the storm's wake.

The most dangerous and potentially destructive part of a massive winter storm will continue to affect the southern United States this weekend, where a glaze of freezing rain up to an inch thick is possible from Texas to the Carolinas and [Virginia](#).

Farther north, [heavy snow will bring its share of disruptions](#), while a combination of snow and ice in parts of the Plains, Tennessee Valley and mid-Atlantic will further add to travel and infrastructure problems.

This winter storm will shut it all down.

"It is rare for a storm to combine this much snow, ice and bitter cold over such a large area — a widespread travel-halting, winter storm will stall daily life for days," AccuWeather Senior Vice President Evan Myers said.

The scope of the ice portion of the storm will extend for 1,800 miles from far western [Texas](#) to the mid-Atlantic coast, encompassing more than a dozen states and 200 million people. In some locations, ice may continue to accrue for more than 24 hours.

"Some of the power outages associated primarily with a buildup of ice affecting utility customers will last a few days or more, meaning many of the same population will be without heat as [Arctic air charges in behind the storm](#)," AccuWeather Chief Meteorologist Jon Porter said.

About 60 million people will experience some icing conditions, with potentially 1 million without power for an extended time.

In many areas hit hard by Helene in late September 2024, temporary power lines set up have still not been upgraded and may come down more easily than permanent lines. The massive extent of the ice storm may stretch resources and personnel in North Carolina and other states to the limit.

"Entire supply chains may break down from prolonged days of extensive interstate closures," AccuWeather Storm Warning Meteorologist William Clark said. "Critical supplies of pharmaceuticals, baby formula and basic necessities may become scarce in the hardest-hit areas and even snowball into large parts of the country."

Ice storm to down trees; make travel dangerous

The intensity of the storm may shut down long stretches of major highways and close schools, businesses and airports for days. A storm of this magnitude in the Northern states, where equipment and ice-melting compounds are plentiful, would pose an extreme challenge. Such a storm as this in the Southern states, where equipment and materials are scarce, could shut down travel for an extended period.

One-quarter of an inch of freezing rain is all it takes for power outages to begin, based on the weight on tree limbs and power lines. This zone is forecast to extend from near [San Angelo](#), Texas, to east of [Raleigh](#), North Carolina.

Areas that have a potential for the glaze of half an inch to 1 inch include northeastern [Louisiana](#), southwestern [Arkansas](#), northern and central [Mississippi](#), northeastern Georgia and upstate South Carolina. This amount of ice is projected to occur near Greenville, South Carolina; Tupelo, Mississippi; and Monroe, Louisiana. Under these conditions, scores of trees and branches will be downed. Trees and live wires will block roads. In some cases, transformers may explode.

While icy conditions are expected throughout the Atlanta area early Sunday morning, the worst conditions will be north and northeast of the city core. Wet areas left over Sunday night will freeze, unless treated.

Sleet could lessen the impacts of the ice storm. Areas that get more sleet than freezing rain will have less ice buildup on trees and power lines. Farther north, including parts of the mid-Atlantic, sleet could also reduce how much snow falls with this storm.

The thick ice on streets, sidewalks, parking lots and highways will harden as much colder air moves in later this weekend to early next week with temperatures dipping into the 20s, teens and even the single digits in some locations as the storm moves away.

Some areas close to the Gulf Coast that experience little or no freezing rain and sleet during the storm may experience a quick freeze-up of wet, untreated surfaces.

Travel during and after the storm may be extremely dangerous. All-weather or summer tires do not provide adequate traction on ice. Experts warn that braking action on an icy surface is practically zero.

Thousands of flights are likely to be canceled throughout the region and across the nation due to the scope of aircraft and crews that will be displaced by the ice and snow

portion of the storm. Airline passengers are urged to call ahead or check apps before departing for the airport, even if the weather outside their window is dry and clear.

Israeli intelligence provided US with proof that of Iranian regime's mass executions of protesters - report | Allisraelnews.com

#bibleprophecy, #iran, #israel, #united states, #execution

Jan 26, 2026

Israeli intelligence gave the US proof of Iran's mass executions of protesters, exposing regime lies about halting killings during nationwide crackdowns.

Israel helped the U.S. obtain intelligence about the mass executions of protesters in Iran in the past weeks, *Israel Hayom* reported Sunday.

This intelligence contradicted the message U.S. President Donald Trump claimed to have received from Iranian President [Masoud Pazkashian](#) and Foreign Minister [Abbas Araghchi](#), who said that no executions would be conducted.

President Trump even listed those assurances by the Iranian government as justification for postponing a planned strike on Iran.

The *Israel Hayom* report claims that the communication from Pezeshkian was a direct message to the Trump administration; however, the Iranian regime denied that such a message was ever sent.

Recent reports from sites like the opposition-linked Iran International claim that while the Iranian regime was communicating one message to President Trump, it took advantage of the [internet blackout](#) to conduct the deadliest [crackdown](#) in Iranian history.

A recent report by *TIME* magazine said the figure of protesters killed in the two days during which the Iranian regime instituted the internet lockdown stands at just over 30,000. *TIME* based its figures on testimony by two senior officials from the country's Ministry of Health, along with an estimation by a network of doctors and physicians within Iran, who shared their figures with the outside via smuggled messages.

According to the report, the number of fatalities overwhelmed the regime's ability to handle the bodies – the stock of body bags was exhausted, and large trucks replaced ambulances tasked with transporting the dead. Additionally, reports coming out of Iran indicate that hundreds were executed by shooting or hanging without a trial, as the regime sought to end the nationwide protest movement.

Israel Hayom reported that the Jewish State helped obtain the information, which was passed on to the U.S. government, as well as intelligence about live shooting of protesters in the streets, and executions of protesters after they were captured. Israeli

intelligence provided unequivocal evidence of such executions and the methods used to carry them out, the report said.

The Israeli news site also claimed that special envoy Steve Witkoff, who led mediation efforts with Iran before the 12-day Israel-Iran War, and Trump advisor Jared Kushner are opposed to military intervention in Iran. The two were reported to fear that escalation could drag the entire region into war, frustrating American efforts to bring peace and security to the Middle East.

This position is supported by Turkey, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia, who analysts say are concerned about the regional changes should the Iranian regime be overthrown.

However, several of Trump's other advisers and cabinet secretaries, including Vice President J.D. Vance, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, and Secretary of War Pete Hegseth, are reported to view a critical strike on the Iranian regime, and possibly its overthrow, as a morally correct and strategic move, which could advance U.S. interests in the region.

Such a move is supported by the United Arab Emirates, several European countries, and Jordan, the report claimed.

There remains great uncertainty in the region regarding the potential for a strike, as President Trump has appeared to provide shifting positions on an almost daily basis.

At the beginning of January, President Trump issued a **strong statement** of support for the Iranian protesters, saying the U.S. is “locked and loaded, and ready to go” if the regime “violently kills peaceful protesters.”

Trump's statement was accepted as tacit support and backing for the protests, with many opposition figures, such as exiled Crown Prince Reza Pahlavi **urging** more people to join.

However, as protests continued, growing larger by the day, the **regime** began to crackdown more firmly. At the same time, **Gulf states**, such as Qatar and Saudi Arabia, began encouraging President Trump not to intervene militarily. Yet, as more reports of killed protesters leaked out of the country, Trump again spoke of possible intervention, saying the U.S. “may **need to act**.”

Over the next several days, more reports of **protester killings** leaked out of the country, and President Trump appeared to have made his decision, telling Iranian protesters, “**help is on its way**.” That decision was apparently reversed the next day, when Trump announced that he had been informed the Iranian regime would **not conduct executions** of protesters.

Iranian leaders have warned against even limited military strikes on the country, saying an attempt to kill Supreme Leader **Ayatollah Ali Khamenei** would be a

declaration of “[**all-out war**](#)” on the Islamic Republic. During that time, the U.S. continued to increase its [**military footprint**](#) in the region.

U.S. Central Command chief Admiral Brad Cooper recently [**visited Israel**](#), even as President Trump announced the arrival of “a big flotilla” heading towards the Persian Gulf. His visit was widely viewed in Israel as helping coordinate any U.S. and Israeli action, should Trump decide to conduct a military strike.

While the Israeli intelligence has been passed on to the Trump administration, Trump has yet to indicate what action his administration will take.

Open Doors US releases 2026 World Watch List report: 'Persecution is expanding' | Christianpost.com

#bibleprophecy, #persecution, #church, #christians, #increase

Jan 14, 2026

Nonprofit watchdog Open Doors US released its annual World Watch List on Wednesday, which ranks the top 50 countries where Christians are being persecuted.

- Open Doors US reports that Christian persecution is expanding globally.
- The 2026 World Watch List ranks 50 countries with record-high levels of discrimination.
- 388 million Christians face high levels of persecution, an increase of over 8 million from last year.

Nonprofit persecution watchdog group Open Doors US released its annual [World Watch List](#) on Wednesday, which ranks the top 50 countries where Christian persecution and discrimination are at a record high.

"We're seeing a continuation of a multi-year trend where persecution is expanding," Ryan Brown, the CEO of Open Doors US, told The Christian Post. "That number moved from 380 million to 388 million this last year."

Christian persecution has reached an unprecedented scale worldwide, and the findings of Open Doors US show that the 388 million Christians facing high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith — more than one in seven — marks an increase of more than 8 million [compared to last year](#).

Brown said there are multiple dynamics at play beneath the surface of such trends, but noted there is "expansion of the levels of really extreme violence that are taking place." He added that much of it is concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa, which is home to 14 countries on the watch list.

The large region of more than 720 million people, nearly half of whom are Christian and where one in eight Christians live in the world, remains a critical area of concern.

Brown said Nigeria is "at the center of a lot of the things going on," and the list notes the African country is the primary hotspot for deadly violence, accounting for the majority of faith-related killings globally. Of the 4,849 Christians killed worldwide for their faith during the reporting period, 3,490 were Nigerian, which marks an increase from 3,100 last year, according to the report.

Somalia landed as the second-most dangerous country for Christians for the fourth consecutive year, and Aweis Ali, who is the son of a Muslim cleric and converted to Christianity, recounted the violence Christians face there.

"Somali Christians are among the most extremely persecuted in the world," he said. "You could be sitting in a cafeteria, enjoying your meal, and somebody could come and attempt to decapitate you, to cut your head off."

The list also highlights Syria, which achieved its highest-ever score on the ranking system after experiencing the most significant single-year increase in Christian persecution recorded by any country since the nonprofit's ranking methodology began in 2014. The trend reflects intensified pressures on the Christian community amid ongoing conflict that has lingered for more than a decade.

The militant Islamist group Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham, which took power after the Assad regime collapsed, at first engaged in dialogue and expressed a willingness that Syrians "could worship freely and different faith persuasions would have a seat at the table," Brown said.

"While we haven't necessarily seen the difficulties at the hand of the central government, we have seen, due to the weak rule of law, that there have been vacuums of power that have been created throughout the country, and extremists have stepped into those vacuums," he said, adding that there are Christians suffering elsewhere because of similar examples of extremists filling a power vacuum.

Brown contrasted what he described as "smash persecution" that results in overt violence, like in Nigeria, with the "squeeze persecution" that he says is increasingly manifesting and making life "extremely difficult for Christians around the globe."

Such squeeze persecution is especially prevalent in China, he said, where the Chinese Communist Party increasingly spies on Christians and asserts state control over religion.

"The Chinese government has really sought to close down a number of the unregistered churches — those that were not officially aligned with the Communist Party, and close those churches out," he said. "Last year, on September 25, they rolled out a list of guidelines, about 18 rules governing the online behavior of Christians and religious expression. This included things such as Christians are not allowed to broadcast any live videos with religious or Christian intent; access to Bible apps was made illegal."

"It's not as visible as the violence or churches being lit on fire, but churches are being closed," he said of such persecution. "Christians are being told that they can't engage in worship or engage in community with one another."

Governments such as the oppressive communist regime in North Korea — which rates the the top most dangerous country for Christians overall — are also getting more creative, according to the report, which noted artificial intelligence is being used to

identify "suspicious behavior patterns" that might indicate someone is a Christian believer.

Replying to a question about Vice President JD Vance's notable [speech](#) at the Munich Security Conference last February, when he rebuked European leaders for suppressing free speech and discriminating against Christians, Brown said any rising persecution against Christians in the West is not comparable to those in other parts of the world, but that ebbing religious liberty could potentially allow Western Christians to better empathize with their brothers and sisters elsewhere.

"We still have, by means of comparison, the rule of law and religious liberties that are protected," he said. "Many of us have certainly felt cultural shifts that, at times, have been aligned in opposition to our faith or misaligned with it. And so, I think many of us have experienced those types of things in recent years."

"I would never seek to equate that to the level of persecution and realities that our brothers and sisters represented on this World Watch List are experiencing," he continued. "If, on some level, it allows us to better identify with them, allows us to better empathize, then hallelujah for that. But we in the West still have freedoms, and we have recourse when those freedoms are being violated."

Brown said that the watch list is not just an informational resource, but also a prayer resource, and that persecuted Christians are asking their fellow Christians around the world to pray for them. The list offers specific prayer points for each of the 50 countries that are detailed.

"For the most part, these are prayer points that our brothers and sisters on the ground have told us," he said. "These are the things that they are praying for. So utilize that World Watch List as a resource, not just to be informed, but to know how we can not just pray for our brothers and sisters, but actually be praying with our brothers and sisters."

[Brandon Lake Takes 'Good Morning America' to Church, Says He's Pointing People 'to Jesus' | Crosswalk.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #jesus, #brandon lake, #church, #good morning America

Jan 15, 2026

Brandon Lake Takes 'Good Morning America' to Church, Says He's Pointing People 'to Jesus', Michael Foust - Read breaking news headlines with a Christian perspective and commentary from Michael Foust.

Grammy-winning Christian artist Brandon Lake brought a taste of church to ABC's *Good Morning America* on Monday, performing his hit song *Hard Fought Hallelujah* and telling viewers his mission is to spread God's love.

Lake performed the hit title just three months after it took home three awards at the 2025 Dove Awards, including Song of the Year, Music Video of the Year, and Bluegrass/Country/Roots Recorded Song of the Year.

Told by host Lara Spencer that he is helping fuel the Christian music genre's explosion, Lake remained humble.

"I'm just trying to chase one song after the other and point people to a hope that's higher and point them to [Jesus](#)," he said.

Hard Fought Hallelujah was initially released as a solo single featuring only Lake's vocals, but it surged in popularity after he teamed up with Jelly Roll for a collaboration.

"I just knew that he would probably identify with this, these lyrics ... because he has worn his faith on his sleeve," Lake, a five-time Grammy winner, told *Good Morning America*. "I'm so proud of him that he's a man of faith, but he's like, 'Yo, I don't have it all together.' And that's what this song is about. It's just still singing out of a 'hallelujah' even when you don't feel it."

Lake caught Spencer off guard when he joked that he and Maury Povich – another guest on the same episode of *Good Morning America* – had something in common.

"We both tell people who the father is," Lake said with a smile. "I'm here to tell them who the Heavenly Father is."

Povich is known for hosting the long-running reality program *Maury*, which featured dramatic paternity test results – and Povich revealing who the biological father was.

Jelly Roll has been open about his faith journey in recent months, even telling ESPN during a basketball game in December that [Jesus](#) is the secret to his dramatic turnaround in life.

“I hope they don't get mad at me saying it on TV, but first and foremost, God is everything, baby,” Jelly Roll said, according to [The Lion](#). “None of this would work for me without [Jesus](#) Himself, and developing that relationship with Him.”

He urged ESPN viewers to “get lost in them gospels, and it will change your life.”

“Man, that's where I'm at right now. I'm somewhere between Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. It is doing it for me, baby. I'm not pushing it on nobody. I'm telling you what worked for me.”