



# **SIGNS OF THE TIMES**

**News Articles for Episode 305**

# [How Iran will respond to strike that killed Mohammad Reza Zahedi - The Jerusalem Post \(jpost.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #iran, #israel, #syria

Apr 2, 2024

'Preparing strikes on Israeli embassies': The coming Iranian response to Syria strike

"Zahedi was a very senior person who can be said to have given Israel a lot of headaches in the last twenty years for all his exploits in his involvement in terrorism," Hezi Simantov said.

Hezi Simantov, a commentator and correspondent for Arab affairs of 'News 13', spoke Tuesday morning with Nissim Mashal and Anat Davidov on 103FM about the assassination of the senior Iranian [Mohammad Reza Zahedi](#), commander of the Quds Force in Syria and Lebanon, and the expected consequences.

First of all, according to the reports from Syria and Iran, the Israeli Air Force allegedly attacked a building adjacent to the Iranian embassy in Damascus, where several senior Iranian officials were located, among them Mohammad Reza Zahedi, who is actually the deputy commander of the Quds Force of the Revolutionary Guards in Syria and Lebanon," Simantov began.

"A very senior member of the Iranian hierarchy, he managed the entire operation of smuggling weapons from Syria to Lebanon. He was a very senior person who can be said to have given Israel a lot of headaches in the last twenty years for all his exploits in his involvement in terrorism. This is the most senior Iranian who has been eliminated so far since October 7 on Syrian soil," he continued.

Top Articles

"This is a severe and painful blow to the Iranian regime, a matter in which the Iranians are more inclined to take revenge against Israel. We have already eliminated several of their senior officials since October 7 on Syrian soil. This is the period when Iran wants to show that it is leading the axis of resistance.

Hamas's utility waning

"[As an Iranian asset] Hamas is currently at a disadvantage because of [the fighting in Gaza](#), and this does not mean that tomorrow morning, the Iranians will try to do

something impulsive. They will perhaps try to activate their militias in Syria or the Houthis in Yemen.

This is something that has already happened and will continue to happen, but they are using, and you see the narrative in the Iranian media, that supposedly there is something diplomatic that has been harmed here," he added.

"They are laying the groundwork to strike at Israeli diplomatic representations worldwide, in the Arab world, Europe, or [the United States](#) or South America," Simantov said. "The assassination attributed to Israel certainly makes the confrontation between Iran and Israel more direct, rather than indirect, as it has been until now in Syria."

"Israel has very good intelligence about what is happening in Syria and Lebanon, unlike what is happening in the Gaza Strip, even before October 7," he added. "There is still very good intelligence about these trained members of the Revolutionary Guards and senior Hezbollah figures in Lebanon and Syria. In my estimation, Iran is deterred from direct confrontation with the US. It does not want that. Iran does not want to bring the US into a direct military confrontation.

"Therefore, this situation in which it is increasingly engaging in terrorism activities in Syria, Lebanon, Yemen, and the envelope to pressure Israel - that is something it will continue to do. Direct confrontation with the US or with Israel that would involve the US - that is not what it wants to do, at least not at this stage, that could change," Simantov concluded.

# [WH Doubles Down After Declaring Easter‘Transgender Day of Visibility’ \(breitbart.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #biden, #trangender, #blasphemy

Mar 30, 2024

White House spokesperson Karine Jean-Pierre has doubled down after President Joe Biden declared Easter Sunday “Transgender Day of Visibility.”

Jean-Pierre’s statement on X Saturday followed overwhelming backlash to Biden’s animated affirmation of the controversial holiday as the same day as the holiest Christian holiday.

“On Transgender Day of Visibility, the Biden-Harris Administration honors the extraordinary courage and contributions of transgender Americans and reaffirms our Nation’s commitment to forming a more perfect union where all people are treated equally,” Jean-Pierre posted.

*On Transgender Day of Visibility, the Biden-Harris Administration honors the extraordinary courage and contributions of transgender Americans and reaffirms our Nation’s commitment to forming a more perfect union where all people are treated equally.*

— Karine Jean-Pierre (@PressSec) [March 30, 2024](#)

Biden’s proclamation – [issued](#) on Good Friday, another sacred day for Christians – announced that “transgender Americans are part of the fabric of our nation” and called for the passage of the Equality Act. That law would codify Democrats’ embrace of gender identity, the made-up concept that one can identify as a sex other than what they were born as and become that sex. Democrats have tried to pass the bill for years but have yet to get it across a president’s desk.

Christians across the nation spoke out after Biden’s declaration went viral. Republicans in Congress overwhelmingly opposed it as well.

“The Biden White House has betrayed the central tenet of Easter – which is the resurrection of Jesus Christ,” Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) posted on X. “Banning sacred truth and tradition—while at the same time proclaiming Easter Sunday as “Transgender Day”—is outrageous and abhorrent. The American people are taking note.”

*The Biden White House has betrayed the central tenet of Easter — which is the resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

*Banning sacred truth and tradition—while at the same time proclaiming Easter Sunday as “Transgender Day”—is outrageous and abhorrent. The American people are taking note. [pic.twitter.com/ZCExyVkAVS](https://pic.twitter.com/ZCExyVkAVS)*

*— Speaker Mike Johnson (@SpeakerJohnson) [March 30, 2024](#)*

Biden has posted an Easter message on Easter Day in years past, although those statements were much shorter and seemingly boilerplate than his lengthy Transgender Day of Visibility call-to-arms.

The proclamation can be read in full [here](#).

# [Biden Demands 'Immediate Ceasefire' from Netanyahu in Phone Call \(breitbart.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #biden, #trangler, #blasphemy

Apr 4, 2024

President Joe Biden demanded an “immediate ceasefire” from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in a phone call on Thursday between the two leaders, threatening a loss of U.S. support for the war if Israel does not comply.

In a statement, the White House [said](#):

*President Biden spoke by telephone with Prime Minister Netanyahu. The two leaders discussed the situation in Gaza. President Biden emphasized that the strikes on humanitarian workers and the overall humanitarian situation are unacceptable. He made clear the need for Israel to announce and implement a series of specific, concrete, and measurable steps to address civilian harm, humanitarian suffering, and the safety of aid workers. He made clear that U.S. policy with respect to Gaza will be determined by our assessment of Israel’s immediate action on these steps. He underscored that an immediate ceasefire is essential to stabilize and improve the humanitarian situation and protect innocent civilians, and he urged the Prime Minister to empower his negotiators to conclude a deal without delay to bring the hostages home. The two leaders also discussed public Iranian threats against Israel and the Israeli people. President Biden made clear that the United States strongly supports Israel in the face of those threats.*

Biden’s statement confirms that the U.S. has effectively adopted Hamas’s demand that a ceasefire precede a deal to release the remaining 134 Israeli hostages. The U.S. previously agreed with Israel that a ceasefire depended on a deal.

Last month, when the U.S. abstained from United Nations Security Council Resolution 2728, allowing it to pass, the Biden administration denied it had changed its policy, though the resolution detached a hostage deal from a ceasefire.

In a press briefing, White House national security spokesperson John Kirby would not state what the consequences would be, specifically, if Israel did not make the changes Biden had demanded.

Kirby said that the accidental killing of seven World Central Kitchen workers in an airstrike earlier in the week was one of the more important factors in pushing Biden toward the demand for a ceasefire, which he had long resisted.

The effect of Biden's demand is that Israel will find it extremely difficult to achieve its war goals. If it chooses to pursue the last Hamas battalions in Rafah, it will do so without U.S. support. And if it tries to reach a hostage deal, Israel will have to do so without the leverage of U.S. support for continued military operations against Hamas in Gaza.

Hamas's strategy throughout the war has been to separate Israel from U.S. support. It has done so by using Palestinian civilians as human shields, hoping to maximize civilian casualties and generate international outrage.

Biden's demand marks the success of Hamas's strategy — unless Israel is willing to continue the war in Gaza alone.

Meanwhile, in Israel, the country prepared for possible reprisal attacks from Iran, after an Israeli airstrike in Syria killed two Iranian generals earlier in the week. Iran arms and funds terrorist proxies that have been attacking Israel.

When Fox News' Peter Doocy asked Kirby whether Biden's support for Israel's war against Hamas was "unwavering," as Biden had promised after October 7, Kirby struggled to reconcile that promise with the threat of policy changes.

# [Trailer of Bibles intentionally set on fire in front of Tennessee church on Easter Sunday | Fox News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #tennessee, #bibles, #fire

Mar 31, 2024

The fire was reported in front of Global Vision Bible Church in Mount Juliet, Tennessee

Authorities [in a Tennessee community](#) are investigating after a trailer full of Bibles was intentionally set on fire in front of a church on Easter Sunday.

Around 6 a.m. on Sunday, the Mount Juliet Police Department and Fire Department swiftly responded to a trailer fire located in an intersection that was blocking the entrance of the Global Vision Church.

The church's pastor, Greg Locke, said in a statement posted on Facebook, that the church's security cameras were able to capture a man reportedly dropping off the trailer [before setting it ablaze](#).

"There was a lady that had driven through the night to get to our church, and she was in the parking lot and was able to get the police officers here quickly, but it was quite the scene to wake up to on my first morning back from Israel," Pastor Locke wrote.

## [RHODE ISLAND MAN CHARGED WITH SETTING FIRES AROUND MAJORITY-BLACK CHURCH](#)

The Wilson County Sheriff's Office also issued a statement saying they believe the fire was set intentionally.

Hundreds took to social media [to show their support for the church](#), that was able to proceed without having any Easter services interrupted.

"The evil out there is frightening. So thankful no one was harmed or damage done to the church. May our Lord touch the heart of the person who did this," one user wrote.

## [FIRE DESTROYS LOS ANGELES CHURCH HOURS BEFORE CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE EVENT](#)

"Gods got the next move. Jesus is alive and doing mighty things. Prayers for that man and also for the church. Onward Christain Soldiers," another user wrote.



"Wow... the enemy is stirred and knows his time is limited. We shall not be shaken!" one comment read.

The Wilson County Sheriff's Office said it is not known at this time if the fire was aimed at the church or not.

"To uphold the integrity of the ongoing investigation, other specific details cannot be provided at this time. However, we assure the community that further updates will be shared at the appropriate juncture," the sheriff's office stated.

No injuries have been reported following the incident, officials said.

Anyone who may have additional information and/or camera footage is urged to contact the Wilson County Sheriff's Office at 615-444-1459.

# [Clarifying anti-war stance and diplomatic meetings - The Jerusalem Post \(jpost.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #united states, #lebanon, #israel

Mar 28, 2024

US does not support war in Lebanon, working to reschedule Israeli delegation

The US reaffirms opposition to the war in Lebanon amidst tensions. Diplomatic discussions with Israel continue, and the White House emphasizes the anti-Hamas stance.

"We do not support a war in Lebanon," [White House National Security spokesman](#) John Kirby said on Thursday, addressing rising tensions in Israel's north. "We don't want to see that happen. We've been crystal clear about that since the very beginning of this."

"Restoring calm along that border remains a top priority for President Biden and from the administration, and it has to be of the utmost importance, we believe as well, for both Lebanon and Israel," he added.

The White House also said it is still working to reschedule its meeting with the Israeli delegation who Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pulled from meeting with the US following its abstention in the United Nations Security Council ceasefire resolution vote.

## Top Articles

"The tone throughout here has been businesslike and it's been professional and we expect that it's going to stay that way. We're hoping that this meeting can be scheduled in person here in Washington as was the original plan," said Kirby. "That's the plan that we're still working on now. But again, no final date. And when we get that we'll let you know," he added.

The White House is still positing that a major ground of Rafah would be a mistake as it's a "tight piece of geography," as Kirby said.

"We haven't, and we're probably not going to agree with the Israelis on every single thing when it comes to their military operations," Kirby said, "but we both agree on the main important thing, and that is that we can't allow Hamas to be able to conduct another [attack like they did on the seventh of October.](#)"

## Kirby reaffirms anti-Hamas stance

Kirby's reassurance that recent disagreements between US and Israelis leave the US still determined to prevent another Hamas attack on Israel come after Israeli officials insisted that the US Security Council abstention represents a shift in US policy since October 7, based on the failure of the resolution to tie a ceasefire to the release of hostages. US officials have repeatedly denied that the US abstention represents a change in policy.

Kirby on Thursday told Israeli news channel Kan that it was "perplexing and confusing" that the Prime Minister's Office has been "trying to create this perception of a gap" when it comes to the [US abstention in the security council](#), over the last few days. This gap "doesn't need to exist," Kirby told Kan.

A bipartisan delegation of US congress people continued their activities in Israel Thursday, meeting with Israeli President Isaac Herzog.

"I want to express my gratitude to all of you for coming to Israel in these dire days and difficult moments. It means a lot to the Israeli people, and I am grateful to you," Herzog told them.

"We all have to understand that we share the same objectives. We share the objective of eradicating terror, of fighting the empire of evil which emanates from Tehran, and wants to undermine world law and order," he added.

Herzog added that US President Joe Biden is a "great friend of Israel," and that Herzog could see how much he cares for Israel when he visited him in Israel less than two years ago.

"We will work together to alleviate and upgrade the humanitarian aid to Gaza and we will work together endlessly to bring the hostages back home," he added.

# [Australia's Left-Wing Govt. Celebrates Easter Sunday as 'Transgender Day of Visibility' \(breitbart.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #australia, #transgender, #easter

Mar 31, 2024

Australia's left-wing Labor government has joined U.S. President Joe Biden and issued gushing praise on Easter Sunday for the "Transgender Day of Visibility."

Foreign Minister Senator Penny Wong, the country's first openly gay female parliamentarian, gave the public affirmation on behalf of the government led by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

Their backing came even as Christianity remains the largest single religion in Australia, with a total of 43.9 percent of the nation-wide population identifying with a Christian denomination in the 2021 census.

The senator shared a picture of the blue, purple and white-striped transgender flag and declared on social media via X – formerly Twitter:

"The Albanese Labor Government stands with trans and gender diverse people across Australia.

"On this #TDOV, we celebrate your strength and your courage – and we recommit to advocating for trans and gender diverse rights in the pursuit of equality."

*The Albanese Labor Government stands with trans and gender diverse people across Australia.*

*On this [#TDOV](#), we celebrate your strength and your courage – and we recommit to advocating for trans and gender diverse rights in the pursuit of equality. [pic.twitter.com/VygxG4mnT7](https://pic.twitter.com/VygxG4mnT7)*

– Senator Penny Wong (@SenatorWong) [March 31, 2024](#)

Christian scripture outlines Easter Sunday as the day Christians join together and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, a fact plenty of critics were quick to point out in response to the Albanese government's position.

Australia's government was not alone in rushing to embrace the "Transgender Day of Visibility."

As Breitbart News [reported](#), U.S. President Joe Biden issued an [official proclamation](#) on Good Friday declaring that Easter Sunday 2024 will be “Transgender Day of Visibility.”

“We honor the extraordinary courage and contributions of transgender Americans and reaffirm our Nation’s commitment to forming a more perfect Union — where all people are created equal and treated equally throughout their lives,” Biden said in the announcement.

# [US tuberculosis cases in 2023 at highest level in decade, CDC says | Fox News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #disease, #tuberculosis, #cdc

Mar 29, 2024

Tuberculosis case count increased 16% compared to 2022, according to CDC

The number of [U.S. tuberculosis cases](#) in 2023 was the highest in a decade, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has announced.

The CDC said on its website Thursday that "overall, cases increased from 8,320 in 2022 to 9,615 in 2023, an increase of 1,295 cases"

"The rate also increased from 2.5 per 100,000 persons in 2022 to 2.9 in 2023," it added, noting that numbers were up among all age groups. Data from the agency shows nearly 10,000 infections in 2013.

CDC officials [expected TB numbers would rise](#), but the 2023 count "was a little more than was expected," Dr. Philip LoBue, director of the agency's Division of Tuberculosis Elimination, told The Associated Press.

The new CDC statistics are not a count of how many people were newly infected in 2023, but rather of how many people developed a cough or other symptoms and were diagnosed.

An estimated 85% of the people counted in 2023 were infected at least a year or two earlier and had what's called latent TB, when the bacterium enters the body and hibernates in the lungs or other parts of the body. Experts estimate as many as 13 million Americans have latent TB and are not contagious.

"Although TB incidence in the United States is among the lowest in the world and most U.S. residents are at minimal risk, TB continues to cause substantial global morbidity and mortality," the CDC says, calling it "one of the world's leading infectious disease killers."

The CDC says tuberculosis is caused by a bacterium called "Mycobacterium tuberculosis" that usually targets the lungs but can also attack other parts of the body such as the kidney, spine and brain.

Symptoms of TB disease in the lungs include chest pains and a prolonged cough, sometimes with blood.

Other symptoms include weakness or fatigue, weight loss, fever and loss of appetite.

Cases declined sharply at the beginning of the [coronavirus pandemic](#), but have been rising since.

"This post-pandemic increase in U.S. cases highlights the importance of continuing to engage communities with higher TB rates and their medical providers in TB elimination efforts and strengthening the capacity in public health programs to carry out critical disease control and prevention strategies," the CDC said.

# [Taiwan 7.4-Magnitude Earthquake Leaves 9 Dead | Newsmax.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #taiwan, #earthquake

Apr 3, 2024

Taiwan's strongest earthquake in a quarter century rocked the island during the morning rush hour Wednesday, damaging buildings and highways and leaving nine people dead.

In the capital, Taipei, tiles fell from older buildings as the earthquake shook the city, and schools evacuated their students to sports fields, equipping them with yellow safety helmets. Some children covered themselves with textbooks to guard against falling objects as aftershocks continued. Afterward, a five-story building in Hualien County, near the offshore epicenter, was left leaning at a 45-degree angle, with its first floor collapsed.

Taiwan's national fire agency said nine people died in the quake, which struck just before 8 a.m. The local United Daily News reported three hikers died in rockslides in Taroko National Park and a van driver died in the same area after boulders hit the vehicle.

The agency said authorities have lost contact with 50 people in minibuses after the quake downed phone networks. More than 70 other people are trapped, but believed to be alive, including some in a coal mine. Another 882 have been injured.

Taiwan's earthquake monitoring agency said the quake was 7.2 magnitude while the U.S. Geological Survey put it at 7.4. It struck about 18 kilometers (11.1 miles) south-southwest of Hualien and was about 35 kilometers (21 miles) deep. Multiple aftershocks followed, and the USGS said one of the subsequent quakes was 6.5 magnitude and 11.8 kilometers (7 miles) deep. Shallower quakes tend to cause more surface damage. The earthquake triggered a tsunami warning that was later lifted.

Authorities said they had expected a relatively mild quake of magnitude 4 and accordingly did not send out alerts. Still, the earthquake was strong enough to scare people who are used to such shaking.

"Earthquakes are a common occurrence, and I've grown accustomed to them. But today was the first time I was scared to tears by an earthquake," said Hsien-hsuen Keng, a resident who lives in a fifth-floor apartment in Taipei. "I was awakened by the earthquake. I had never felt such intense shaking before."



Television images showed neighbors and rescue workers lifting residents, including a toddler, through windows and onto the street. All appeared mobile, in shock but without serious injuries. Doors had been fused shut by the pressure of the tilt.

The national legislature, a converted school built before World War II, and sections of the main airport in Taoyuan, just south of Taipei, also saw minor damage.

Traffic along the east coast was at a virtual standstill after the earthquake, with landslides and falling debris hitting tunnels and highways in the mountainous region. Train service was suspended across the island of 23 million people, as was subway service in the capital, Taipei, where a newly constructed above-ground line partially separated.

The Japan Meteorological Agency said a tsunami wave of 30 centimeters (about 1 foot) was detected on the coast of Yonaguni island about 15 minutes after the quake struck. Smaller waves were measured in Ishigaki and Miyako islands.

The earthquake was felt in Shanghai and several provinces along China's southeastern coast, according to Chinese media. China and Taiwan are about 160 kilometers (100 miles) apart. China issued no tsunami warnings for the Chinese mainland and all such alerts in the region had been lifted by Wednesday afternoon.

The initial panic after the earthquake quickly faded on the island, which is regularly rocked by temblors and prepares for them with drills at schools and notices issued via public media and mobile phone.

By noon, the metro station in the busy northern Taipei suburb of Beitou was again buzzing with people commuting to jobs and seniors arriving to visit the hot springs or travel the mountain paths at the base of an extinct volcano.

Stephen Gao, a seismologist and professor at Missouri University of Science and Technology, said Taiwan's earthquake preparedness is among the most advanced in the world, featuring strict building codes, a world-class seismological network, and widespread public education campaigns on earthquake safety.

Hualien was last struck by a deadly quake in 2018 that collapsed a historic hotel and other buildings. Taiwan's worst quake in recent years struck on Sept. 21, 1999, with a magnitude of 7.7, causing 2,400 deaths, injuring around 100,000 and destroying thousands of buildings.

Taiwan lies along the Pacific "Ring of Fire," the line of seismic faults encircling the Pacific Ocean where most of the world's earthquakes occur.

The economic fallout from the quake has yet to be calculated, but Taiwan is the leading manufacturer of the world's most sophisticated computer chips and other high-technology items that are highly sensitive to seismic events. Parts of the electricity grid

were also shut down, possibly leading to disruptions in the supply chain and financial losses.

Taiwanese chipmaker TSMC, which supplies semiconductors to companies such as Apple, said it evacuated employees from some of its factories in Hsinchu, southwest of Taipei. Hsinchu authorities said water and electricity supplies for all the factories in the city's science park were functioning as normal.

The Taiwan stock exchange opened as usual on Wednesday, with the index wavering between losses and gains.

# [Haiti declared an 'open-air prison' as gang violence reaches 'apocalyptic' levels | World | News | Express.co.uk](#)

#bibleprophecy, #haiti, #gangs, #lawlessness, #violence

Apr 1, 2024

The United Nations has sounded the alarm as gangs continue to shoot unarmed civilians and recruit children into their criminal operations.

Haiti's crisis has got so bad that the country has now been described as an "open-air prison" as armed gangs continue to kill unarmed civilians and the humanitarian crisis deepens.

In recent weeks, [the gangs have ramped up their violence](#) as they forced Prime Minister Ariel Henry to resign.

A transitional government has been formed to run the country before elections are held, but the gangs continue to cause chaos on the streets of the capital Port-au-Prince.

A [United Nations](#) report has outlined how more than [1,500 Haitians have died due to gang violence this year so far](#).

The report adds that children are among the most impacted, often caught in crossfire or being kidnapped by gangs as they aim to raise funds from ransoms. Sexual violence has also made the streets incredibly unsafe for women.

William O'Neill, the UN's designated independent expert on human rights, based in New York, said: "Schools, hospitals, key government institutions, everything now is at risk.

"Port-au-Prince and the surrounding area is essentially an open-air prison. There's no way out — air, land, or sea. In fact, it's not even so open-air anymore because people are afraid to leave their houses."

He added the situation in [Haiti is "frightening" with "apocalyptic and catastrophic" scenes on the streets](#).

Mr O'Neill continued: "I've talked to Haitians who remember the Duvalier dictatorship, both father and son, Francois and Jean-Claude. They say it's much worse than under Duvalier. That really is saying something. "

On gangs recruiting children, he said: "This is extremely alarming. The gangs have turned their violence towards people that for whatever reasons they see as a threat to their continued control of the territories they control."

Many in Haiti are now going without essentials, including food. Gang violence has also seen over 350,000 people displaced in their own country.

Mr O'Neill continued: "The key overriding issue is security. It's got to be established to some minimal level. It is now almost non-existent in almost all of the capital and the surrounding area... [and] also in the Lower Artibonite Valley, which is the breadbasket.

"Gangs in the Artibonite department have attacked farm properties and also stolen hundreds of livestock belonging to residents, assets which often represent farmers' life savings."

The United Nations report said: "Furthermore, along the northern coast of the Arcahaie and Léogâne communes, the Village de Dieu gang continues to use motorboats to ... attack, loot, and steal from residents, local businesses, and humanitarian actors.

"To pay the ransoms demanded by gangs for the liberation of kidnapped family members, many have been forced to sell their homes and take out loans," the report added. "Others have lost all their possessions and savings as they fled imminent gang attacks.

"Corruption, impunity and poor governance, compounded by increasing levels of gang violence, have eroded the rule of law and brought State institutions... close to collapse. The impact of generalized insecurity on the population is dire and deteriorating... and the population is severely deprived of enjoying its human rights."

# [As war rages, why are Israelis searching for God, and even considering Jesus? | All Israel News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #jews, #messiah, #believers

Mar 28, 2024

This Easter week on THE ROSENBERG REPORT, Joel interviews head of the Israeli Bible Society

Every year, tens of thousands of Christians visit the Garden Tomb – that is, the empty tom – in Jerusalem to reflect on the life, death, and miraculous resurrection of Jesus.

But this year, with Israel engaged in brutal war against Hamas in Gaza for almost six months, more and more Israeli Jews than ever before are wrestling with existential questions.

They're asking about life and death and life after death – and even whether Jesus of Nazareth might, in fact, be the Jewish Messiah.

And that's the focus of this week's Easter Special Edition of THE ROSENBERG REPORT on TBN.

Joel C. Rosenberg, the program's anchor and editor-in-chief of ALL ISRAEL NEWS, discusses the central question on the hearts of so many in Israel's darkest hour.

“Is there any way to know God personally and be sure that we're going to be safe, that we're really going to be in heaven forever and ever when we leave this world?”

Walking through the grounds of the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem, including going inside the empty tomb of Jesus, Rosenberg interviews Victor Kalisher, a prominent Messianic Jewish leader in Israel and the head of the Israeli Bible Society.

Kalisher – the son of a Holocaust survivor and born into one of the most prominent and influential Messianic Jewish families in all of Israel – gives a fascinating explanation of why many Jews don't believe that Jesus is the Messiah but also why more Jews than ever do believe.

And why more Jews than ever are asking honest and hard questions about God, the Bible, and the true identity of Jesus.

Kalisher told Rosenberg that the resurrection of Jesus is the central claim of the New Testament.

He also noted that the Apostle Paul wrote that if Jesus did not rise from the dead then the faith of Christians and Messianic Jews is in vain.

"It is written that He appeared at one time before 500 people and He appeared on different occasions to make sure that the fact of the resurrection will be known [widely], that it will be [known as] a historic fact.," he told Rosenberg.

Kalisher added that he asks himself today: "How can I be a true witness of Jesus' resurrection?"

While Kalisher's father was a Holocaust survivor from Poland, his mother was a Jewish woman who fled Iran.

His family, he noted, radically came to faith in Jesus as Messiah under very special circumstances.

Kalisher also shared with Rosenberg that at a young age, he once dreamt that God handed him the Bible and told him to share it with others.

Back then, he didn't realize the full meaning of the dream.

"God called me to give all Israelis the opportunity to read God's Word," Kalisher said.

"I am part of the first generation in 2,000 years of Israeli Jews who believe in Jesus," he said, and is passionate about giving every Israeli a chance to have their own Bible; to read it for themselves; to be able to decide whether to receive or reject Jesus as the crucified and resurrected Messiah.

In 1948, the year that the State of Israel was established, only 23 Israeli Jews in the nation believed that Jesus is *the* Messiah.

Worldwide in 1948, fewer than 2,000 Jews believed that Jesus is *the* Messiah.

Today, studies show that between 15,000 and 30,000 Israeli Jews follow Jesus.

Across the world, almost one million Jews are followers of Jesus.

Why do so many more Jews believe in Jesus than ever before?

Both Rosenberg and Kalisher have noticed that there has been an increasing openness about Jesus in Israel in recent years.

More Israelis seem to be open to asking questions about Jesus and who He really is.

"I think that there is much greater openness and seeking [in recent decades], especially now in this time of war," Kalisher said.

“You see much more people quoting scriptures, trying to go to spiritual things... They seek for spirituality... They search and seek for divine intervention.”

Kalisher explained in some detail why Jews are more open to discussing Jesus – and even following Jesus – than at any time in 2,000 years.

Don't miss this week's Easter Special and the intriguing interview with Victor Kalisher.

THE ROSENBERG REPORT airs Thursday nights at 9 p.m. EST and Saturday nights at 9:30 p.m. EST on the Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN), the most-watched Christian television network in the United States.