



SIGNS OF THE TIMES

News Articles for Episode 414

[21 arrested for trying to sacrifice a baby goat on the Temple Mount | The Times of Israel.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #temple mount, #animal sacrifice, #israel

May 3, 2026

Police said Sunday that they arrested 21 people suspected of trying to bring a sacrificial goat up to the Temple Mount in Jerusalem's Old City on Friday.

It was the second time in as many months that a group was arrested for attempting to perform a traditional sacrifice at the historical site of Judaism's two ancient holy temples. While the temples have not existed and Jews have not performed such sacrifices for nearly 2,000 years, small groups ascend the mount perennially to try to revive the ritual, without success.

The Temple Mount, revered by Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary, is Judaism's holiest site and one of the holiest sites in Islam, and has long been a flashpoint for conflict. Public Jewish prayer (and animal sacrifice) is prohibited there. National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir, a frequent visitor to the site, has pushed to change the ban on prayer, prompting fury in the Muslim world and [denials from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu](#) that the status quo has changed.

The group that took a goat to the mount on Friday was attempting to perform the sacrifice in honor of Pesach Sheni, or Second Passover. Before the destruction of the Second Temple in the year 70 CE, the day offered an opportunity for Jews who were unable to bring the Passover sacrifice to do so exactly one Hebrew month later.

Police said that on Friday, "a group of rioters that arrived at one of the entrances tried to break through the gate with the goal of bringing a baby goat onto the grounds of the mount, thereby disrupting public order."

They were arrested before they could perform the ritual sacrifice. The detainees were brought to the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court and police sought to keep them in custody, but a judge released them.

:הנה הוידאו: <https://t.co/ysiJrthvWm pic.twitter.com/MwyzlWJswt>

— Nir Hasson ניר חסון (@nirhasson) [May 1, 2026](#)

Police filed an appeal on Sunday, but the decision to free the suspects was upheld, according to the police statement.

Small groups have been trying to bring back sacrifice at the mount for years, connected to a fringe movement that seeks to build a Third Temple at the site where the Al-Aqsa Mosque and Dome of the Rock now stand. Ritual sacrifice and actively working to reconstruct the temple have not been part of mainstream Jewish practice for many centuries, and Jewish legal authorities are divided on whether it is permissible for Jews to even set foot on the mount.

“Bringing a sacrifice to the Temple Mount is contrary to the Chief Rabbinate of Israel’s ruling,” Rabbi Shmuel Rabinovitch, the chief rabbi of the Western Wall, [said in a statement](#) in 2022.

One month before Friday’s arrest, on the day when the Passover sacrifice would have been brought in ancient times, police [arrested](#) 14 Jewish men and boys for trying to smuggle sacrificial goats onto the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, according to the far-right legal aid group Honenu.

The group, called Returning to the Mount, has submitted a request annually to perform the Passover sacrifice, but has been denied by police. In 2024, 13 suspects, all between the ages of 13 and 21, were [caught with goats in their possession](#) that they intended to sacrifice for Passover, including one that was hidden inside a baby carriage and another inside a shopping bag, a police statement said at the time.

Similar incidents [occurred](#) in 2023 prior to Passover and sparked clashes with Muslim worshipers.

[US-Iran deal won't meet Israel's war goals on nukes, missiles and proxies | Ynet News.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #iran, #united states, #war

May 6, 2026

Israeli officials warn the proposed agreement may leave Iran's missile arsenal intact, ease financial pressure on Tehran and limit the IDF's freedom of action in Lebanon; They support continuing siege on Iran and say Iran likely will cheat from the outset.

Israel fears the [emerging agreement between the United States and Iran](#) will not restrict Tehran's [development of ballistic missiles](#). Israeli officials are also concerned it could undermine the IDF's freedom of action in Lebanon, and perhaps even lead to a demand for withdrawal. Some diplomatic officials are warning that the IDF could be handcuffed and paralyzed in Lebanon. Added to that are a series of objectives cited at the start of the war as goals Israel sought to achieve — and the emerging agreement does not necessarily address them.

Another concern raised in Israel is that the agreement will unfreeze billions of dollars for Iran, funds that could ultimately be directed toward rearmament and strengthening [Tehran's proxies across the region](#).

Israeli officials said Wednesday night that most of the Israeli defense establishment supports continuing the siege on Iran, arguing that the Islamic Republic is collapsing from within — and that an agreement would be harmful because Iran is expected to cheat from the outset.

“It is terrible for Israel,” said an Israeli official familiar with the details. “This is a bad agreement that only perpetuates the ayatollahs’ rule. It is a lifeline for them, when every day that passes brings them closer to collapse.”

Israel is also disappointed that the emerging agreement would limit uranium enrichment for only 15 years, even though U.S. President Donald Trump declared that “Iran will never have a nuclear weapon.”

“How is this much different from Obama’s nuclear deal?” one Israeli official asked. “That deal had a sunset clause, and so does this one. Iran cheated anyway and will have to wait in any case, then break out to a bomb when Trump is no longer here.”

The goals vs. the agreement

Israel [did not officially publish the war's goals](#) at the start of Operation Roaring Lion more than two months ago. But in an article published by Gabi Siboni, Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu's leading candidate to head the National Security Council, together with Brig. Gen. (res.) Erez Wiener, they listed what they identified as the main objectives: ensuring Iran never has nuclear weapons, which implies destroying its nuclear program; destroying its ballistic missile array; damaging Iran's ability to activate proxies; and creating the conditions for the regime's collapse.

In recent weeks, information published in Western media has made it possible to assess those parameters. So what has been achieved, what has been partly achieved and what has not been achieved at all?

Ensuring Iran never has nuclear weapons

A New York Times review found that when Trump [withdrew from the nuclear agreement](#) during his first term in 2018, [Iran did not have enough uranium to build even one nuclear bomb](#). Since then, however, it [has accumulated 11 tons of enriched uranium](#). Perhaps even more seriously, after two military operations over the past year aimed at preventing a nuclear Iran, the [fate of Iran's uranium stockpile remains a mystery](#). It is unclear what happened to it. Added to that are current U.S. intelligence assessments indicating that the time Iran would need to build a nuclear weapon has not changed since last summer.

The assessment is that parts of Iran's enriched uranium stockpile, which is radioactive and chemically hazardous, remain hidden or buried under wartime rubble, making them difficult to extract or destroy. Recent reports indicate that the emerging agreement would limit uranium enrichment for 15 years. Even if Iran does remove its enriched uranium stockpile, there is no guarantee it will not resume enrichment in 15 years. If so, this goal is not achieved under the agreement.

Destroying the ballistic missile array

IDF officials estimated at the end of [Operation Rising Lion](#) last summer that [Iran still had a stockpile of about 1,500 ballistic missiles](#). According to U.S. officials, Iran has demonstrated impressive missile capabilities and has significantly increased production since last summer in preparation for the next confrontation. Last month, The Wall Street Journal reported that even after Operation Roaring Lion, Iran still had thousands of ballistic missiles, some stored in underground stockpiles, along with launchers ready for immediate use.

U.S. officials have also expressed concern that Iran is using the current ceasefire to substantially rebuild its missile arsenal. In the final analysis, although U.S. military officials said during the latest war that Iran's missile-launching capabilities had been significantly damaged, U.S. and Israeli sources told The Wall Street Journal that Iran still has thousands of ballistic missiles available for immediate use. At this stage, there is also no information on what understandings Washington and Tehran will reach on this issue. Therefore, this goal will not necessarily be achieved.

Damaging Iran's ability to activate its proxies

Since the October 7 massacre, Israel has taken the gloves off against Hezbollah, eliminating the leadership of the Shiite terrorist organization and the senior command structure of its military wing. Israel has also acted against weapons and money-transfer routes from Iran. But recent weeks have shown that Hezbollah, despite the blows it has suffered, remains a significant threat on the northern border.

During the fighting, Hezbollah fired missiles and drones at northern Israeli communities and disrupted the daily lives of many Israelis. It also managed to surprise IDF forces operating in southern Lebanon by [using fiber-optic drones](#), and so far the [IDF's attempts to counter Hezbollah's import from the Ukrainian battlefield have not succeeded](#).

For now, Israel does not know how a U.S.-Iran agreement would affect the northern front. But Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri was quick to declare yesterday that the Iranian and Lebanese arenas are linked, meaning that an agreement on Iran would also bring an end to the fighting in Lebanon.

The Houthis also proved during the fighting that, despite the strikes they have sustained from Israel, they can still launch missiles and drones, meaning the threat they pose remains very real. It is not yet clear whether the United States and Iran have agreed that Tehran will no longer be able to transfer aid to its proxies. But even if they have, there is no certainty Iran will not do so through indirect channels. This goal, too, will be achieved only partially — if at all.

Creating conditions for the regime's collapse

After the broad protest wave at the beginning of the year, which was violently suppressed by the regime, some expected crowds to return to the streets once the U.S. and Israeli bombardments began. However, citizens stayed home, and during and after the fighting expressed concern that the regime would settle accounts with anyone who exploited the situation to try to bring it down.

For now, the regime has not fallen. But reports are multiplying of severe economic distress among civilians and internal disputes within the leadership, which is trying to recover from the assassination of Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. As for this goal, it is still too early to assess how events will develop — but as Israeli officials have argued, the agreement could instead end up saving the ayatollahs' regime.

Tennessee Ditches ‘Pride’ Month for ‘Nuclear Family Month’ | The Gateway Pundit.com

#bibleprophecy, #tennessee, #pride month, #family, #united states

May 1, 2026

On April 9, 2026, Tennessee Governor Bill Lee (R) signed [House Joint Resolution 182](#), officially designating June 2026 as “Nuclear Family Month” in the state. Lee signed House Joint Resolution 182, which passed the House in April 2025 and the Senate last month, on April 9.

It is a departure from the national recognition of June as Pride Month.

[Per Fox News:](#)

The legislation highlights the importance of celebrating the [traditional family unit](#), described as “consisting of one husband, one wife, and any biological, adopted, or fostered children.”

“The nuclear family is under attack in our beloved State and nation, and it is our responsibility to uplift, protect, and support values that help Tennessee prosper,” the resolution adds.

The pushback against Pride displays is taking place across the country.

[The woke Mayor of Boise, Idaho](#), Lauren McLean (D), was finally forced to remove the rainbow LGBT “pride” flag from its City Hall following implementation of a new flag law.

Multiple states, including Florida, Texas, and Alabama, have passed or proposed restrictions on Pride events in public schools, government buildings, or taxpayer-funded spaces.

In 2023, [Target began removing some LGBTQ+](#) merchandise from its Pride Month collection amid nationwide backlash.

Cracker Barrel [removed its Pride page](#), which listed the Nashville Pride Parade it sponsored. The page’s website link now redirects to Cracker Barrel’s “Culture and Belonging” site.

In 2025, Anheuser-Busch, the brewing company known for brands like Bud Light and Budweiser, [ended its sponsorship of San Francisco Pride](#) following the beer giant’s loss

of over \$27 billion in market value in 2023 after partnering with transgender influencer Dylan Mulvaney and becoming the target of a conservative boycott.

The woke crowd is not staying quiet, however.

After a large Pride flag was taken down from the federal monument in Greenwich Village that honors the 1969 Stonewall riots, an event widely recognized as the birthplace of the modern LGBTQ civil-rights movement, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer signaled efforts to introduce radical legislation that would effectively federalize the Pride Flag.

Schumer, joined by Rep. Dan Goldman in the House, says he will introduce a bill to [make the Pride flag a congressionally authorized national symbol](#) that cannot be removed from federal monuments or properties.

Under the draft language reported in local outlets, the legislation would designate the rainbow banner as protected under federal flag law, giving it the same status as other flags sanctioned by Congress.

[Catholic conversions rising: Inside the Catholic Church's quiet revival | CBS News.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #church, #catholic conversions, #revival

Apr 12, 2026

For more than two decades, the numbers told a story of decline. Adult conversions to Catholicism had been falling steadily since the early 2000s, according to data compiled by [Georgetown University](#). Weddings, baptisms, and even funerals registered fewer and fewer Catholic participants. The church appeared to be losing its hold on American life.

Then something shifted.

Since around 2022, dioceses across the country have reported a reversal of that trend, with growing numbers of Americans — particularly Millennials and Gen Z — choosing to join the Catholic Church. This past Easter, some archdioceses recorded their highest number of new Catholics in two decades.

"The number of those joining the church this year is a record for the archdiocese, which is a wonderful thing," said Cardinal Robert McElroy of Washington, D.C., who noted that some 1,800 new Catholics were welcomed at this year's ceremony at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. "We're seeing this across the country."

60 Minutes spoke with [three of the nation's most senior Catholic leaders](#) — Cardinal McElroy, Cardinal Joseph Tobin of Newark, New Jersey, and Cardinal Blase Cupich of Chicago — to understand what might be driving the renewal.

A hunger for meaning

The cardinals acknowledge they don't have a complete explanation. Cupich said his archdiocese is actively surveying new members to understand their motivations, but he offered an early read.

"Research is showing that there really is a deep hunger in the hearts of young people for something that can help them with the meaning of life," Cupich said. "But also, there's a woundedness on the part of young people that they are seeking healing for."

McElroy pointed to what he sees as a perceived vacuum of moral authority in public life.

"What a tragedy to have a world in which there are not moral leaders," he said. "I think young people, and young adults particularly, are looking for a sense of that in their lives. And some of those are coming into the church for that reason."

Tobin went further, suggesting that Pope Leo himself — the first leader of the Catholic Church born in the U.S. — deserves some of the credit.

"I've had the privilege of working closely with four popes, and very different people in a lot of ways," Tobin said. "But each one in some way was the right one for that moment in time. And I believe that Pope Leo is the right man at this time."

The shadow of the abuse scandal

Any honest accounting of the church's recent history must reckon with the clerical sexual abuse scandal, which drove Catholics away and, in the view of many, stripped the institution of its moral credibility. The question of how the church can now reassert moral leadership is one the cardinals addressed directly.

"It prompts us to be even more forthright in doing everything possible to protect children, but also to address the harm that was done," Cupich said. "That is something that's always on the front burner for us."

Cupich also argued that the years of decline cannot be attributed to the scandal alone. Broader forces of secularization, he said, have reshaped religious participation across faiths. "People have a lot more options on Sunday and on the weekend than they did before. So, I think there are a number of factors that contributed to that decline."

Who is converting and why

A [Pew Research Center study](#) from last year found that converts represent roughly 8% of the approximately 53 million Catholics in the United States. Most say they came to the church through marriage; others cite spiritual reasons or the influence of people close to them. The numbers, while growing, remain a relatively small share of the overall Catholic population.

But the cardinals suggest the more significant story is one of identity, how Catholic Americans understand their role in the nation.

With the country approaching its 250th anniversary, all three leaders were asked what patriotism means to them. America, they argued, is defined not by borders or bloodlines but by its ideals.

Cupich framed it in terms that the church has long applied to questions of immigration and social justice.

"Patriotism is about being united in the common task of creating the opportunities for everyone to flourish," he said. "That is part of the aspirations that immigrants came here with, just an opportunity to have a fresh start. How can we work together to make sure that everybody has an opportunity to flourish? I think that's patriotism."

McElroy argued that American Catholics love the U.S., not because it is their birthright. Instead, patriotism means loving the country because of its goals of "democracy, justice, equality, of freedom" that have defined it.

"So for us as Catholic Americans," McElroy said, "we love our country because of what it aspires to be and has for the past 250 years."

[Globalist Leaders Fear End of NATO | Breitbart.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #nato, #global countries, #europe

May 3, 2026

Polish Prime Minister Tusk Says NATO Alliance Faces ‘Disintegration’ Amid U.S. Troop Reductions from Europe

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk has warned that the Western NATO military alliance is in jeopardy of “disintegration” in the wake of the announced U.S. troop drawdown in Germany.

On Friday, the Pentagon said that around 5,000 soldiers would be relocated from bases in Germany over the next year amid a broader shift in the forward deployment of U.S. forces. President Donald Trump said on Saturday that the drawdown in Germany would likely be much larger, though he did not specify how many more of the approximately 36,000 U.S. troops would be relocated from the country.

President Trump has also suggested moving American forces out of countries such as Italy and Spain, all of whom he has accused of disloyalty over their response to the conflict against the Islamist regime in Iran.

While the U.S. administration has not suggested a withdrawal from Poland, where some 8,500 troops are currently stationed, Prime Minister Donald Tusk nevertheless warned that the NATO alliance was on the brink.

Writing on X, the Polish leader [remarked](#): “The greatest threat to the transatlantic community are not its external enemies, but the ongoing disintegration of our alliance. We must all do what it takes to reverse this disastrous trend.”

It comes after Tusk openly questioned America’s loyalty to Europe last week, expressing doubts that Washington would honour Article 5 of the NATO treaty, which mandates member states to come to the defence of each other if under attack, despite President Trump consistently affirming that the U.S. would stand by its allies if called upon.

Speaking to the globalist-oriented *Financial Times*, Tusk [said](#) that Europe’s “biggest, most important question is if the United States is ready to be as loyal as it is described in our [NATO] treaties.”

“I want to believe that [Article 5] is still valid, but sometimes, of course, I have some problems,” he said. “I don’t want to be so pessimistic... but what we need today is also practical context.”

Tusk, who formerly served as the head of the European Council in Brussels, has also been at the forefront of transforming the EU into a fully-fledged defensive alliance, potentially with its own dedicated army, a far cry from its original purpose of providing a framework for free trade throughout the continent.

Tusk recently met with French President Emmanuel Macron to discuss the possibility of Paris extending its nuclear weapons umbrella throughout Europe and the prospect of stationing French nukes in Poland. Macron, who is seeking a legacy as his second and final term draws to a close, has also been in talks with other major European powers, such as Germany, about stationing French nukes in the country.

For its part, Berlin has claimed it will aim to have the strongest army in Europe by 2039, with plans to field 460,000 combat-ready troops. However, the government has consistently struggled to meet recruitment targets among its [increasingly apathetic](#) country.

[Report: Iran operating antisemitic terror networks across Europe | Israel National News.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #anti-semitism, #iran, #europe, #networks

May 4, 2026

An extensive investigation published yesterday in the British *The Times* reveals that Iran is systematically operating antisemitic terror networks across Europe, using social media platforms and recruiting local extremists to carry out attacks.

At the center of the activity is a terror group operating on the Telegram app under the name "Harakat Ashab al-Yamin al-Islamiya," which has been linked to a series of serious incidents, including the arson of ambulances belonging to the Hatzalah organization in London, an attempted arson attack on a synagogue in Brussels, and knife attacks in Jewish neighborhoods.

According to the report, Iranian intelligence and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) are actively working to recruit agents, primarily among dual nationals and local youth.

Iranians holding British citizenship told the newspaper that over the past year, IRGC intelligence operatives approached them in Britain, across Europe, in Turkey, and even in Iran, offering money in exchange for gathering intelligence or carrying out "violent operations." Some also reported receiving threats against their lives.

An adviser to the Speaker of the Iranian parliament told the newspaper that "not everything is initiated or directly controlled by Tehran, but may receive support once it organically takes shape," comparing this to Iranian backing of left-wing movements in the West during the Cold War.

Experts warn that the Iranian regime has for years been working to establish a "soft power" network, including charities, mosques, and educational institutions across Europe. While appearing legitimate, these bodies allegedly serve as infrastructure for incitement, radicalization, and intelligence gathering. Since October 7, Iran has significantly intensified its activities, including sponsoring anti-Israel marches and increasing surveillance of Jewish and Iranian communities in Britain.

The head of Britain's MI5 security service confirmed that at least 20 Iran-linked terror plots have been foiled over the past year. In response to the escalation, the British government has raised the threat level to "severe," indicating that another attack is "highly likely."

British Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer stated that he intends to advance new powers to combat terrorism, including the ability to outlaw threats posed by states and designate groups supported by them as terrorist organizations.

The implication is that anyone found to be acting on behalf of the IRGC would be subject to British national security laws, which carry significantly harsher penalties.

[Earthquakes continue to rock Nevada with 2 magnitude 5 tremors in recent weeks | Accuweather.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #earthquake, #nevada, #tremors

May 1, 2026

Dozens of earthquakes have been recorded in recent weeks, with the strongest occurring about 2 weeks apart near Silver Springs, Nevada.

A recent sequence of earthquakes in [Nevada](#) continues to jolt residents, with the latest ranking among the strongest so far at magnitude 5.2.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey data, there have been 205 quakes of a magnitude of 2 or larger recorded since the 5.7 main shock last month.

Early Friday morning, a magnitude 4.8 earthquake struck southeast of [Silver Springs](#), Nevada, followed shortly by a magnitude 5.2 in nearly the same area.

On April 14, [a magnitude 5.7 earthquake](#) — also centered near Silver Springs — was felt as far away as [Reno](#), [South Lake Tahoe](#) and San Diego. With a depth of about 3 miles, some of these earthquakes have been shallow and felt for miles outside of the epicenter.

Experts with the [Nevada Seismological Laboratory](#) at the University of Nevada, Reno, say the recent activity is consistent with an aftershock sequence, with the magnitude 5.7 serving as the mainshock.

“While this earthquake is larger than we typically see, we are not surprised by these earthquakes in that they do not seem to be out of the ordinary for the types of earthquakes that we experience in Nevada,” Seismic Network Manager William Savran told AccuWeather via email.

[What to know about hantavirus, the illness linked to a cruise ship outbreak | AP News.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #virus, #cruise ship, #outbreak, #hantavirus

May 5, 2026

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — An outbreak [aboard a cruise ship](#) of a rare, rodent-borne illness called hantavirus has left three people dead and sickened others.

Hantaviruses exist throughout the world and are spread mainly by contact with rodents. It's rare and not easy for a hantavirus to spread between people. In severe cases, the virus can cause a deadly lung infection or kidney failure.

The virus, which usually spreads when people inhale contaminated residue of rodent droppings, has been confirmed in two of the cases. The World Health Organization said detailed investigations of the [cruise ship outbreak](#) are ongoing, including further laboratory testing and other work aimed at determining the source of exposure. Officials suspect the first infected person likely contracted the virus before boarding the ship.

The WHO says the risk to the global population from this outbreak is low.

Disease outbreaks involving gastrointestinal and respiratory illnesses happen periodically on cruise ships, which are full of people in close quarters for long stretches of time. They are usually caused by germs that are highly contagious — most notably, norovirus.

There were 23 gastrointestinal outbreaks on cruise ships that called at U.S. ports last year, with 18 caused by norovirus, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In an AP interview, Paul Hunter, a professor of medicine at the University of East Anglia and an expert on the epidemiology of infectious disease, says hantavirus can be spread from contaminated aerosol vapor.

But hantavirus is not typically associated with cruise ships, and it is not easily spread between people.

Studies indicate hantaviruses have been around for centuries, with outbreaks documented in Asia and Europe. It wasn't until the early 1990s that a previously unknown group of hantaviruses emerged in the southwestern United States as the cause of an acute respiratory disease now known as hantavirus pulmonary syndrome.

The disease gained attention last year after the late [actor Gene Hackman](#) 's wife, Betsy Arakawa, [died from a hantavirus infection](#) in New Mexico.

The virus is spread by rodents and, more rarely, people

Hantavirus is mainly spread by contact with rodents or their urine, saliva or droppings, particularly when the material is disturbed and becomes airborne, posing a risk of inhalation. People are typically exposed to hantavirus around their homes, cabins or sheds, especially when cleaning out enclosed spaces with little ventilation or exploring areas where there are mouse droppings.

The WHO says that while it rarely happens, hantaviruses can also spread directly between people.

There's one strain endemic to Argentina and Chile that does have the ability to transmit person-to-person, said Steven Bradfute, an associate professor and associate director of the Center for Global Health at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center, which specializes in hantavirus research.

The Andes virus is typically contained because it would spread only through close contact, such as sharing a bed or sharing food, he said.

“We haven't had huge person-to-person spreads of hantavirus infection ever before and there's no reason to suspect a huge outbreak from this case at this point,” Bradfute said.

Hantavirus infections are relatively uncommon globally. The WHO reported that in 2025 eight countries within the Americas had documented 229 cases and 59 deaths. In Argentina, the health ministry said hantavirus led to 28 deaths nationwide last year.

In the U.S., federal health officials began tracking the virus after a 1993 outbreak in the Four Corners region — the area where Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah meet. It was an astute physician with the Indian Health Service who first noticed a pattern of deaths among young patients.

Most U.S. cases are in Western states. New Mexico and Arizona are hot spots, likely because the odds are greater for mouse-human encounters in rural areas.

The illness starts with flu-like symptoms

An infection can rapidly progress and become life-threatening. Experts say it can start with symptoms that include a fever, chills, muscle aches and maybe a headache — much like the flu would feel.

Symptoms of hantavirus pulmonary syndrome usually show between one and eight weeks after contact with an infected rodent. As the infection progresses, patients might experience tightness in the chest, as the lungs fill with fluid.

The other syndrome caused by hantavirus — known as hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome, which can cause bleeding, high fever, and kidney failure — usually develops within a week or two after exposure.

Death rates vary by which hantavirus causes the illness. Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome is fatal in about 35% of people infected, while the death rate for hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome varies from 1% to 15% of patients, according to the CDC.

A lot of unknowns about the illness and treatment

There is no specific treatment or cure, but early medical attention can increase the chance of survival.

Despite years of research, many questions have yet to be answered, including why it can be mild for some people and severe for others and how antibodies are developed. Some researchers have been following patients over long periods of time in hopes of finding a treatment.

“In the Americas, hantavirus infection is very serious, but it’s also quite rare,” Bradfute said. “And so for a time that probably led to less research into it because of funding priorities, but I know there’s been a lot of interest in funding hantavirus work of late.”

What researchers do know is that rodent exposure is key.

The best way to avoid the germ is to minimize contact with rodents and their droppings. Use protective gloves and a bleach solution for cleaning up rodent droppings. Public health experts caution against sweeping or vacuuming, which can cause virus particles to get into the air.

Different versions of hantavirus documented in different countries

The word hantavirus refers to a broad family of viruses, with different versions in different countries. Almost none of them have been found to spread from person to person, with the exception of the version found in South America — and it makes sense that virus is under suspicion, since the cruise originated in Argentina, said Angela Luis, a hantavirus researcher at the University of Montana.

A thorough investigation will be crucial in determining exactly what happened, and may help settle the question of whether it does spread among people, Luis said.

“My guess is we’re going to learn a lot from this,” Luis said.

[Archaeologists uncover massive artifact depicting pharaoh thought to have challenged Moses in Exodus | Foxnews.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #bible, #moses, #exodus, #pharaoh

May 3, 2026

Archaeologists in Egypt recently uncovered a massive statue believed to depict [King Ramses II](#), the pharaoh believed to be a major character in the Old Testament.

The statue was found at the Tel Pharaoh site in Husseiniya Center, Sharqia Governorate, the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities said on April 22. The site is in Egypt's Nile Delta, northeast of Cairo.

Officials also described the statue as "remarkable" in size, weighing between 5 and 6 tons and measuring over 7 feet long.

In a translated statement, the ministry described the statue as being in a "relatively poor condition of preservation," with its legs and base missing.

Still, officials described the statue as "likely represent[ing] King Ramses II."

[Ramesses II](#), born in 1303 B.C., is considered one of the most influential and powerful Egyptian rulers of the New Kingdom era.

The pharaoh is often cited by scholars as a possible ruler referenced in the [biblical Book of Exodus](#), though no name is given in the Old Testament.

Ramesses II is said to have retaliated against Moses and refused his requests, which resulted in a series of plagues. He died in 1213 B.C.

Egyptian antiquities official Mohamed Abdel Badie said the statue was likely moved in ancient times and reused at the site.

"[P]reliminary studies indicate the statue was transported in ancient times from the city of Pi-Ramesses to the Tel Pharaoh site, known in [ancient times as 'Imet,'](#) to be reused within one of the religious complexes, reflecting the religious and historical importance of the site across different periods," said Badie.

The statement also described the statue as "one of the important archaeological pieces of evidence that shed light on aspects of religious and royal activity in the eastern Delta region."

"As part of efforts to preserve this discovery, the statue was immediately transferred upon its discovery from within the temple complex at the site to the museum storage facility in the San El-Hagar area," the statement noted.

The move was "in preparation for the start of precise and urgent restoration work, in accordance with the highest scientific standards followed in the conservation and preservation of antiquities."

The find adds to a growing list of [archaeological discoveries](#) recently announced across Egypt.

In late March, officials revealed eight [rare papyrus scrolls](#) dating back nearly 3,000 years, with their contents still unknown.

Officials also recently unveiled the remains of an ancient religious complex [in North Sinai](#), a site often identified with a biblical city mentioned in the Old Testament.

Good News

Scriptures(s):

[4 - Exclusive – Christian Revival in Cuba: Inside Regime-Defying Prayer Events for Freedom | Breitbart.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #cuba, #christianity, #revival, #prayer, #freedom

May 1, 2026

Cubans in nearly two dozen churches of different denominations nationwide joined a global prayer effort on April 26 calling on God to bless the island and free it from communist tyranny.

The prayers occurred alongside a massive event in Miami, Florida, that day titled “United for a Free Cuba” that featured a wide variety of artists, journalists, former political prisoners, activists, and notable individuals within the Cuban exile community. The event attracted national attention the United States, but, U.S.-based organizer Orlando Gutiérrez-Boronat told Breitbart News, it was meant as a support event for what was taking place on the island – a collective prayer in the context of a larger Christian resurgence in a country with more than half a century of history of Christian persecution.

“The prayer here was in support of their efforts and I think it helped empower the largest simultaneous civic mobilization of churches in Cuba in recent times,” Gutiérrez-Boronat, the coordinator of the Assembly of the Cuban Resistance (ARC), shared.

As a Spanish colony, Cuba for centuries was a majority Catholic land and retained its faith following its successful war for independence. Following the communist coup in 1959, however, Christianity was effectively outlawed, permitted only as a propaganda wing of the Communist Party. Christians who insisted on retaining their authentic faith were often imprisoned or sent to concentration camps, known as “Military Units to Aid Production,” or [UMAPs](#). Many were [executed](#) before a firing squad, shouting “Long live Christ the king!”

Today, Cuba remains one of the world’s most dangerous places to practice Christianity, despite dictator Raúl Castro personally embracing the late Pope Francis. Despite the persecution, thousands – potentially millions – continue to flock to the faith, and did so on Sunday expressly to pray for a better future for their country .

As can be seen in images and videos shared with Breitbart News, believers convened throughout the island, in Manatí, Manzanillo, Victoria de Las Tunas, and Havana, among other locations. Baptist, Pentecostal, Catholic, non-denominational, and other Christians participated.

From far-west Pinar del Rio province to eastern Camagüey, worshippers organized under the banner of the “Save Cuba” initiative, which was [launched](#) in January as a spiritual accompaniment to the now-common anti-communist protests throughout the island.

During one event, a speaker prayed for a future free of communist dictatorship, and for forgiveness from Jesus for the campaign waged against His faith following the Castro family coup.

“We want change. We want to save our country. We ask forgiveness, Lord, because Cuba distanced itself from you,” the speaker shared, while those assembled took to their knees. “We ask for forgiveness, Lord, because every family distanced itself from you, because we took Christ out of our homes, because we gave our backs to the cross, to the tomb.”

Another speaker asked for special blessings for Cuba, stating, “We are the ones who will save our country. That is what You called us for, Father, to bless our Cuba.”

The organizers in another event decorated their prayer space with flags of many countries. The events featured songs and praise, attracting crowds of diverse ages and backgrounds.

The presence of Christian faith front and center in the struggle for Cuban liberation is not new – priests [participated](#), for example, in the planning of the 1961 Bay of Pigs liberation attempt thwarted by Democrat President John F. Kennedy. For years, the Ladies in White – a group of mothers, wives, daughters, and sisters of political prisoners – protested against the regime solely by attending Catholic Mass dressed in white and carrying the photos of their imprisoned loved ones. In Florida, attendees at the “United for a Free Cuba” prayer rally explained the importance of faith in the movement.

“The communist regime, since its arrival to power, wanted to strip God out of the hearts and minds of the Cuban people and the Cuban people resisted so much,” José Daniel Ferrer, the head of the Patriotic Union of Cuba (UNPACU) and a former political prisoner, said in an interview with Univisión. “If, for communism, atheism is fundamental, for a healthy and believing people – a people who want to live with freedom, democracy, and respect for human rights – faith in God is fundamental.”

The Christian aid organization Open Doors [ranked](#) Cuba number 24 on the 2026 edition of its World Watch List, which documents the most dangerous places on earth for Christians. Due to violent state repression, Cuba outranked nations with documented active jihadist movements, such as Niger, Cameroon, and Mozambique.

