



# **SIGNS OF THE TIMES**

**News Articles for Episode 405**

# [Iranian missile warhead falls less than a kilometer from Temple Mount, al-Aqsa Mosque | The Times of Israel.com](#)

#bibleprophecy #israel, #temple mount, #western wall

Mar 1, 2026

Police find warhead, incendiary material in Sultan's Pool venue just meters outside Old City of Jerusalem. Missile could 'very possibly' have hit key holy site, police say

The warhead of an Iranian missile hit a site just several dozen meters from the Old City of Jerusalem, and just several hundred meters from the Western Wall and the Temple Mount, during the course of Saturday, police announced on Sunday.

According to police, an explosion was heard and smoke was seen rising from a site just west of the Old City on Saturday morning, shortly after the beginning of the latest armed conflict with Iran.

The impact site appears to have been the Sultan's Pool outdoor events venue, which lies just a few dozen meters to the west of the Old City and just under a kilometer west of the Temple Mount, as the crow flies.

Police and sappers conducted searches of the area and found the warhead from an Iranian ballistic missile, along with "incendiary and explosive materials" scattered nearby, the police said.

The warhead was then neutralized by sappers from the police's Jerusalem District.

From video footage sent by the police, it appears that the missile did not strike the site directly, but may instead have first been intercepted by Israel's missile defense systems, with fragments from the projectile then falling to earth.

The police did not respond to questions regarding the nature of the impact.

The Old City of Jerusalem includes some of the most important holy sites in the world, including the Western Wall and the Temple Mount, the holiest sites in the world for Jews; as well as the al-Aqsa Mosque, one of the holiest sites in Islam; and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, believed by Christians to be the site of the crucifixion of Jesus.

"Yesterday, we received further proof that from the enemy's perspective, all targets are legitimate, and if that warhead had deviated by a few hundred meters, it is very possible that a very serious hit would have occurred, especially if one of the holy places had been hit while it was full of worshipers and visitors," said police commander Dvir Tamir in a statement on the incident.

# [Russia's Putin offers to mediate with Iran, calls US-Israeli strikes 'unprovoked aggression' | The Jerusalem Post.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #putin, #russia, #iran, #mediator

Mar 2, 2026

Russian President [Vladimir Putin](#) spoke by phone to leaders of three Arab Gulf states on Monday, offering to use Moscow's ties to Iran to try to help restore calm to the Middle East following US and Israeli strikes, which he condemned.

In a series of calls with the leaders of the [UAE, Bahrain and Qatar](#), Putin criticized the US-Israeli strikes on Iran, which the Kremlin described as "unprovoked aggression."

Earlier, the Kremlin said that Moscow remained in constant contact with the Iranian leadership.

Moscow sees its strategic partnership with Iran as central to maintaining its remaining clout in the Middle East, where its influence took a hit when their mutual ally Syrian President Bashar al-Assad was toppled 15 months ago.

Although Russia stands to benefit from higher oil prices and may welcome Washington's focus shifting away from Ukraine, the US-Israeli air war also runs counter to Moscow's desire for a multilateral world order in which the US is not dominant.

## **Arab Gulf states come under Iranian attacks**

Arab states in the Gulf, all close US allies, have come under [Iranian drone and missile attack](#) since the United States and Israel launched their air strikes on Saturday.

According to the Kremlin readout of Putin's call with UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Russian leader offered to act as a conduit by conveying the UAE's complaints about being attacked to Tehran.

During the call, "both sides emphasized the need for an immediate ceasefire and a return to the political and diplomatic process," the Kremlin added.

In Putin's call with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, the Kremlin said both leaders had spoken of their concern about the conflict widening and the risk of third countries becoming involved. And Putin told Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa that Russia was ready to do all it could to stabilize the situation in the region.

Putin on Sunday condemned the [killing of Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei](#) as a "cynical" murder. The Russian Foreign Ministry has accused the US and Israel of plunging the Middle East "into an abyss of uncontrolled escalation."

But Moscow is also keen not to alienate the administration of US President Donald Trump as Washington brokers peace talks on Ukraine. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Moscow wanted those talks to continue.

"We have our own interests that we must protect, and it is in our interests to continue these negotiations (on Ukraine)," said Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov.

# [China, Russia, North Korea and Hamas condemn killing of Iran's Khamenei | The Times of Israel.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #china, #russia, #north korea, #hamas

Mar 1, 2026

Putin says supreme leader's 'murder' is a 'cynical violation of all norms,' while Pyongyang slams 'shameless and gangster-like conduct' of US-Israeli strikes

While many Western leaders welcomed news on Sunday that Iran's notorious strongman Ayatollah Ali Khamenei had been killed in an Israeli airstrike, authoritarian states like China, Russia and North Korea condemned the news, as did Iranian proxies Hamas, Hezbollah and Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

China said Sunday it "strongly condemns" the United States and Israel's killing of Khamenei, calling again for a halt to military actions.

The killing was "a serious violation of Iran's sovereignty and security, a trampling on the aims and principles of the UN Charter and the basic norms of international relations," Beijing's foreign ministry said in a statement.

"China firmly opposes and strongly condemns this," it added, calling for an "immediate halting of military operations."

The condemnation came just after Chinese state media reported a phone call between Beijing's top diplomat Wang Yi and Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov.

During the conversation, which state news agency Xinhua said was initiated by Lavrov, Wang said that the "blatant killing of a sovereign leader and the incitement of regime change" by the United States and Israel was "unacceptable."

China is "highly concerned" that the "situation in the Middle East could be pushed into a dangerous abyss," Wang told Lavrov, according to Xinhua.

"The international community must send a definite and clear message opposing the world's regression to the law of the jungle," Wang said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday called the killing "a cynical violation of all norms of human morality and international law."

He expressed his "deep condolences in connection with the murder of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Sayyed Ali Khamenei, and members of his family," in a letter to Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian.

North Korea condemned the attack as an “illegal act of aggression.”

Pyongyang said the military actions showed the “shameless and gangster-like conduct” of the two allies, who it said had chosen to “abuse military force to fulfill their selfish and hegemonic ambitions.”

The Hamas terror group mourned “the passing of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. He provided all forms of political, diplomatic and military support to our people, our cause, and our resistance,” Hamas said in a statement.

“The US and the fascist occupation government [a reference to Israel] bear full responsibility for this blatant aggression and heinous crime against the sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as for its serious repercussions on the security and stability of the region.”

Hamas’s armed wing, the Izz a-dine Al-Qassam Brigades, described Khamenei as the “main supporter of the Resistance Axis and its mujahideen.”

“All the support the Islamic Republic has provided over decades to our people and our resistance... was delivered by his direct decision and under his full supervision,” the Brigades said in a separate statement.

“This substantial support has been a key factor in the development of the resistance and its tactics, culminating in the remarkable achievements” during the October 7, 2023, attack on Israel, the group added. That devastating attack, in which some 1,200 people were killed in Israel and 251 were abducted, sparked a two-year war in Gaza.

The Palestinian Islamic Jihad terror group called the killing of Khamenei a “war crime” by the US and Israel in a “treacherous and malicious attack.”

Hezbollah terror group chief Naim Qassem called on mosques to recite the Quran and organize mourning ceremonies to mark Khamenei’s death, both in the Beirut suburb and other areas of Lebanon where the group wields influence.

Qassem said Sunday that the assassination of Khamenei and other Iranian officials was “the height of crime.”

# [China, Russia, Turkey call for immediate end of Iran war | All Israel News.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #china, #russia, #turkey, #iran

Mar 4, 2026

China, Russia and Turkey call for an immediate ceasefire after U.S.-Israel strikes on Iran spark missile and drone attacks across the Middle East.

China, Russia and Turkey pushed on Tuesday for an immediate end to the Iran war, which began on Saturday with joint U.S. and Israeli strikes on the Iranian regime and its military assets. The ayatollah regime has responded by firing missiles and drones against Israel, U.S. military bases and multiple countries in the region.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan condemned both sides in the ongoing conflict.

“Attacks on Iran, and missile and kamikaze drone attacks [by Iran] on neighboring countries in the Gulf have fueled instability,” the Turkish president argued.

“Through peace-oriented diplomacy, we are making intense efforts to resolve issues at the negotiating table,” he urged.

Turkey, which is a NATO member state, also maintains close diplomatic relations with Tehran.

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan reportedly discussed the Iran war with the U.S. ambassador to Turkey and Syria, Tom Barrack. The Turkish foreign ministry also revealed that Fidan spoke with British foreign minister Yvette Cooper concerning “the current security environment in the region” and exchanged views on “diplomatic efforts that could be undertaken to end the hostilities and establish stability.”

Meanwhile, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi reportedly criticized the American-Israeli military offensive against Iran in a phone call on Tuesday with Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa’ar. China, which has close ties with Iran, demanded a ceasefire and said it backed Tehran “defending its sovereignty.” China's top diplomat also blasted the elimination of Iran’s supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, as a “serious violation.”

The Israeli Air Force eliminated some 40 Iranian top commanders alongside Khamenei during the opening strike on Saturday morning.

Wang reportedly stressed that China backs a solution to the conflict through “dialogue and consultation.”

“Force cannot truly solve problems – instead, it will only bring new problems and severe after-effects,” he argued.

“China calls for an immediate halt to military operations to prevent the conflict from further spreading and getting out of control,” Wang stated.

He also claimed that “the recent Iran-US negotiations were making obvious progress... Regrettably, this process has been interrupted by gunfire.” However, U.S. President Donald Trump’s special envoy, Steve Witkoff, who negotiated with the Iranians, later stated that the talks had reached a dead end due to Tehran’s refusal to give up its nuclear and missile programs, and to end its support for regional terrorist proxies like Hezbollah and the Houthis.

He further revealed that Iranian negotiators had bluntly admitted that Tehran had enriched sufficient uranium for 11 nuclear warheads.

China, which is heavily dependent on oil imports from Iran, is concerned that a prolonged war could disrupt supplies to its economy. In January 2022, Beijing signed a strategic [agreement](#) with Tehran pledging to invest some \$US400 billion in Iran over the next 25 years.

Russia also blasted the elimination of Khamenei and has called for a ceasefire. Russia’s Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov reportedly held a phone call with Oman’s Foreign Minister Badr Albusaidi regarding the ongoing war in the Middle East. Oman has previously hosted the negotiations between Iran and the United States.

# [Trump & Israeli PM Netanyahu declare war on ayatollah regime, tell Iranian people: 'Take over your gov't!' | All Israel News.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #trump, #israel, #iran, #war

Feb 28, 2026

The leaders of the United States and Israel declared the launch of a broad, coordinated military operation against the Iranian regime on Saturday morning, beginning with massive waves of airstrikes across several areas in the country.

U.S. President Donald Trump announced the start of “major combat operations in Iran,” explaining that the objective “is to defend the American people by eliminating imminent threats from the Iranian regime.”

At the time of publication, there was no verified information available regarding the extent and the targets of the combined U.S. and Israeli airstrikes. Sounds of explosions and unverified footage of smoke plumes were reported from Tehran, Karaj, Isfahan, and several other cities.

Internet access was almost completely blocked in Iran on Saturday morning, according to the Internet Observatory NetBlocks.

Trump’s comments echoed statements he made during the State of the Union [address](#) on Wednesday, where he stressed the threat that the ayatollah regime posed to American interests.

The president made clear that the destruction of the regime is a central objective of “Operation Epic Fury,” addressing “the great and proud people of Iran: The hour of your freedom is at hand.”

Trump advised Iranians to stay sheltered during the strikes, adding, “When we are finished, take over your government. It will be yours to take. This may be your only chance for generations... America is backing you with overwhelming strength and devastating force. Now is the time to seize control of your destiny and unleash the prosperous and glorious future that is within your reach. This is the moment for action. Do not let it pass.”

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in his own statement, thanked Trump “for his historic leadership,” stressing that “our joint action will create the conditions for the brave Iranian people to take their destiny into their own hands.”

In a notable departure from previous statements, Netanyahu explicitly mentioned several minorities in Iran, saying the time had come for them to “cast off the yoke of

tyranny and bring about a free and peace-seeking Iran,” including “Kurds, Azeris, Baloch, and Ahwazi,” as well as the Persians, who are the ethnic majority in the country.

“For 47 years, the Ayatollah regime has chanted ‘Death to Israel’ and ‘Death to America.’ It has shed our blood, murdered many Americans, and massacred its own people. This murderous terrorist regime must not be allowed to arm itself with nuclear weapons that would enable it to threaten all of humanity,” Netanyahu stressed.

Trump, for his part, noted the U.S. has always said that “this terrorist regime can never have a nuclear weapon,” noting that the regime consistently refused a nuclear deal and “just wanted to practice evil.”

“Instead, they attempted to rebuild their nuclear program and continue developing long-range missiles that can threaten our friends and allies in Europe, our troops stationed overseas, and potentially the American homeland itself. Just imagine how emboldened this regime would be if it ever possessed nuclear weapons,” Trump said.

The American president stressed the regime’s history of hostility toward the U.S., noting attacks on the U.S. embassy in 1979, the Marine barracks in Beirut in 1983, the USS Cole in 2000, and on American forces in Iraq, where the regime “killed and maimed hundreds of American service members.”

He added, “The regime’s proxies have continued launching countless attacks against American forces stationed in the Middle East, as well as U.S. naval and commercial vessels in international shipping lanes. From Lebanon to Yemen, and Syria to Iraq, the regime has armed, trained, and funded terrorist militias that have soaked the earth in blood.”

“For these reasons, the United States military has undertaken a massive and ongoing operation to prevent this wicked, radical dictatorship from threatening America and our core national security interests,” he stressed.

Trump declared that the U.S. military would “destroy their missiles and raze their missile industry to the ground,” which Israel had classified as a strategic threat on the level of the nuclear program.

“We are going to annihilate their navy. We will ensure that the regime’s terrorist proxies can no longer destabilize the region or the world,” he continued.

Addressing members of the Iranian armed forces and police, Trump promising them “complete immunity” if they laid down their weapons. “Otherwise, you will face certain death.”

# [For 1st time, Gallup poll shows Americans more sympathetic to Palestinians than to Israel | The Times of Israel.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #americans, #israel, #support, #palestinians

Feb 27, 2026

Americans for the first time sympathize more with Palestinians than Israelis in their conflict, according to a [Gallup poll](#) released Friday, indicating a sea change in the public views of Israel's key ally.

Views on the Middle East divide sharply along partisan lines, with the shift over the past year the result of more independents souring on Israel.

Overall, 41 percent of Americans sympathize more with the Palestinians and 36% sided with Israel, the poll said, with the rest undecided or saying they favored both or neither.

The gap is not statistically significant, but it marks the first time since Gallup asked the question more than two decades ago that Israel was not on top.

It also marks a sharp difference from just a year ago, when Israel led in sympathies 46 to 33 percent.

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“It's the first time they have reached parity, which is really quite striking,” said Benedict Vigers, a senior global news writer at Gallup. “In not many years, that very significant gap in public opinion has now completely closed.”

When asked about their sympathies, independents sided with the Palestinian people by 11 percentage points.

Members of US President Donald Trump's Republican Party continued to back Israel strongly, with 70% siding with Israel, although that figure has declined by 10 percentage points over the past decade.

Democrats' views of Israel have grown increasingly negative since a decade ago, when Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu openly broke with then-US president Barack Obama on his diplomacy with Iran.

The US is Israel's main ally in the international community, providing both military and diplomatic backing to the Jewish state.

Some Democratic voters faulted former US president Joe Biden for not doing more to rein in Israel's offensive in Gaza following the Hamas-led onslaught of October 7, 2023.

In the latest poll, 65% of Democrats sympathized with the Palestinians and 17% with Israel.

## **Generational gaps**

Younger adults — those 18 to 34 in this poll — are also increasingly sympathetic toward the Palestinians, according to the Gallup survey.

Younger Americans' sympathies have been shifting toward the Palestinians since around 2020, and reached a new high this year. About half of 18 to 34-year-olds say they have more sympathy for the Palestinians, compared to about a quarter who say that about the Israelis.

Anti-Israel student protests appeared on college campuses across the US during the Gaza war, asking colleges to cut investments supporting Israel.

But the shift is only “partly a generational story,” according to Vigers.

The new poll also found for the first time that middle-aged Americans, those 35 to 54, expressed more sympathy for the Palestinians than the Israelis — a reversal from last year. And while Americans over 55 are more sympathetic toward Israel, that gap is narrowing, too.

“With adults over 55, they are more sympathetic to Israelis, but it's as low as it's been since 2005,” Vigers said.

## **Palestinian state**

Meanwhile, 57% of US adults favor the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, according to the new polling. That's not significantly different from recent years, as at least half of US adults have supported an independent Palestinian state since 2020.

Vigers noted that “party polarization is at or near its record high” on this question, even though it hasn't been sharply increasing year over year.

In the last few years, there's been an uptick among Democrats and independents in support for the two-state solution. Now, about three-quarters of Democrats and roughly 6 in 10 independents say they support an independent Palestinian state. Only about one-third of Republicans say the same.

The opinions of the people who would be directly affected by a two-state solution are quite different. Only about three in 10 Israelis living in Israel and Palestinians living in the West Bank and East Jerusalem said they supported a two-state solution in which an

independent Palestinian state existed alongside Israel, according to the Gallup World Poll conducted in 2025.

“On the ground, in the region, far fewer Israelis and Palestinians tell us that they are in favor of the two-state solution than Americans when asked a very similar question,” Vigers said. “There is that interesting sort of disconnect between the region itself and Americans’ views toward it.”

The Gallup poll was conducted by telephone with 1,001 US adults from February 2 to 16. The margin of error was  $\pm 4\%$ .

# [The war in Iran could lead to a 'guaranteed global recession' because of one chokepoint that is crucial to the world economy, analyst says | MSN.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #global recession, #finance, #economy

Mar 2, 2026

On Sunday, a day after U.S. and Israeli forces began raining missiles across Iran, an oil tanker docked off the coast of Oman burst into [flames](#). The same day, maritime tracking organizations announced tankers were targeted by [more projectiles](#) in the waters north of the Arabian Peninsula.

Experts say these attacks are opening up a front of the war that could have massive repercussions. A large portion of the world's energy supply traverses these waters, and for each day attacks happen and fewer ships take the risk of navigating there, the world gets a little bit closer to an economic crisis.

Oman sits at the bottom of the Strait of Hormuz, a key maritime traffic route that links countries in the Persian Gulf, like Iran, to the rest of the world. On normal days, around 20 million barrels of oil, or [approximately 20%](#) of the world's liquid petroleum, passes through the strait, which is less than 30 miles across at its narrowest point. In a moment of regional instability, the seafaring passageway can quickly turn into a strategic chokepoint, and its effects are already rippling out on a global scale.

Renewed conflict in Iran, and the regime's reprisal attacks across the Middle East, have thrust the strait back to the center of recession fears, as analysts warn that even a partial or prolonged disruption of petroleum supply could shock the world economy into contraction. Now, with the weekend's attacks, experts are warning that triple-digit crude oil prices could be the least of the world's concerns. If the strait stays shut down long enough, it could amount to an assured hit for the global economy.

"A prolonged closure of the Strait of Hormuz is a guaranteed global recession," Bob McNally, founder of consultancy group Rapidan Energy and a former energy advisor to George W. Bush's White House, [told CNBC](#) Saturday.

It's not just oil. Around [one fifth](#) of globally traded liquefied natural gas moved through the Strait of Hormuz in 2024, according to the Energy Information Administration, making it one of the most critical nodes in the world's energy system. Tanker-tracking data show that Saudi Arabia alone shipped [about 5.5 million barrels per day](#) through the strait in 2024. With about 38% of total crude oil flowing through, the passage is essential for Gulf exporters. While workarounds do exist, including [existing](#)

[pipelines](#) that crisscross their way through the Arabian Peninsula, their limited capacity would struggle to make up for flows that would be lost in a full closure of the strait, leaving the global market particularly susceptible to any sustained disruption.

While the Islamic Republic has yet to forcefully close the strait, the sentiment has already done quite a bit of legwork. On Saturday, the Iranian military warned that passage through the strait was “[unsafe](#),” according to local news reports affiliated with Iran’s Revolutionary Guard. By the end of the day, ship traffic through the strait was [down 70%](#) compared with the day prior, the *New York Times* reported.

## Global fallout

A prolonged pause to shipments would shock the global economy. Last summer, after a brief conflict also involving the U.S., Israel, and Iran threatened to shut the strait down, the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies [modeled](#) the impact of a potential closure lasting more than a year, finding that 15% of global liquefied natural gas supply would be wiped out, with Europe, China, India, and Japan hit the hardest in terms of lost imports.

Oil prices have skyrocketed as a result of the instability. Brent crude, a global pricing benchmark for most internationally traded crude oil, jumped as much as 13% on Monday to \$86 a barrel, and analysts warn that attacks on energy infrastructure in the Gulf or an extended closure could bring it to [\\$100 or higher](#). The last time oil prices were that high was in 2022, after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine resulted in sweeping international sanctions targeting Russian petroleum exports. Prices have remained below \$80 for the past year.

Most banks and analysts frame the possibility of even higher oil prices or a forced closure of the strait as a small risk, for now. [Citigroup](#), for instance, put the chance of a [\\$120 barrel of oil at only 20%](#) in a Monday note. Analysts have also noted the logistical difficulties Iran would face in ordering and maintaining a closure of the strait, including [U.S. naval superiority](#) in the region and the risks the regime would run of losing allies by cutting off energy supply. The threat of closure also isn’t new for the Islamic Republic, which has threatened to close the strait multiple times in the past, but never fully [followed through](#).

In an [analysis](#) by energy consultancy Wood Mackenzie, researchers noted that the nearest historical analogue would be the 1970s, when an oil supply crisis sparked downturns in several countries around the world. Unlike that period, however, the world is now much less reliant on oil, the analysts noted. To create a similar scale of global economic crisis, they wrote, oil prices would need to reach around \$200 a barrel.

Such a cut to global supply, and the accompanying risk to the world economy, would likely be unpalatable even in the U.S., the Wood Mackenzie analysts added.

“A sustained conflict that significantly limits transit via the Strait of Hormuz, elevates oil and LNG prices, and weakens an already fragile global economy presents a considerable political risk for the U.S,” they wrote. “A sharp, negative reaction in global financial markets could prompt the Trump administration to look for an off-ramp and de-escalate.”

# [Chasing the apocalypse: Radical Shiite clerics on American soil preach prophetic showdown with US | Foxnews.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #apocalypse, #muslim, #mahdi

Mar 2, 2026

Pro-regime U.S. mosques spread end-times theology casting America as an enemy 'empire' before arrival of "the Mahdi"

MANASSAS, Va. – FIRST ON FOX: For many, the [war with Iran](#) — and the killing of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei — might seem like the climactic end to a long, brutal reign of terror by the theological clerics who have run the country since 1979.

But a Fox News Digital investigation reveals that, for certain hardline Shiite ideologues, including in the U.S., this is not an ending but a prophetic showdown that will usher in the arrival of the "Mahdi," a messiah, according to Islamic eschatology, or the theology of end times.

In this prophecy, Mahdi will emerge to battle Dajjal, the Islamic equivalent of the Antichrist, in a final battle of Armageddon. For many of these ideologues, President [Donald Trump](#) is Dajjal.

At a recent Friday sermon at a local Shiite mosque in northern Virginia, an imam closed prayer with an earnest plea, before war broke out in Iran: "May Allah destroy all the nonbelievers – or kafiroon or munafiqoon," he said, using Arabic words that refer to "nonbelievers" and "hypocrites."

He asked for this victory "before the arrival of Imam Mahdi."

Fox News Digital observed the sermon and also witnessed a special table of honor in the middle of the mosque's main prayer hall, featuring framed photos of [Khamenei](#) embracing Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar and Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrullah, also killed by Israel for orchestrating terrorist attacks.

The Friday service at the Manassas Mosque reveals a theological dynamic that Secretary of State [Marco Rubio](#) warned about in early February, noting that the Islamic Republic of Iran's leaders are guided not merely by geopolitics and national security considerations, but by "pure theology."

"We have to understand that Iran ultimately is governed, and its decisions are governed by Shiite clerics — radical Shiite clerics — who make policy decisions on the basis of pure theology," Rubio said.

In its investigation, Fox News Digital conducted a digital analysis of hours of sermons and scores of pages of pro-regime protest slogans, messaging and social media posts, using large-language models, and found clerics, community leaders and media platforms in the U.S. framing tensions with Iran in explicitly apocalyptic terms rooted in eschatology, or Islamist end-times theology.

The investigation found that precepts shaping Tehran's worldview, from its clerics to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, are also being preached on American soil by proxies for Iran's propaganda.

From the mosque in northern Virginia to religious institutions in Michigan and Texas, clerics aligned with the Islamic Republic are advancing a doomsday interpretation of faith that casts geopolitical and military confrontation with the U.S. as part of a prophetic destiny tied to the return of the Mahdi.

After war broke out Friday night, Fox News Digital witnessed pro-regime chats on messaging platforms, like Telegram, filled with prayers, awaiting "the arrival" of Mahdi.

"We need Al Mahdi...His return with Jesus will be the final win permanently," one read.

"The saviour the warrior the dominator 'imam mahdi' [sic] will arrive," read another.

Last summer, the Manassas Mosque co-organized a White House protest with the Party for Socialism and Liberation, the ANSWER Coalition, CodePink and other far-left groups to support the Iranian regime. The groups are now again protesting Trump's military action against Iran.

One demonstrator, wearing a black-and-white Palestinian keffiyeh scarf over her face, carried a flag last summer that read "Labayk ya Mahdi" in Arabic, meaning, "At your service, oh, Mahdi."

In Farsi, Arabic and English, the flag also had the message, "I dedicate every single of my steps to your reappearance."

Pro-regime mosques, K-12 schools and local community organizations in the U.S. are "producing messaging that mirrors Tehran's talking points almost word for word," warned Andrew Ghalili, policy director at the National Union for Democracy in Iran, an advocacy group led by Iranian Americans who oppose the theocratic regime running Iran.

In an upcoming report, "The Ayatollahs' Influence Network in the United States," reviewed by Fox News Digital, the group's researchers conclude the Islamic Republic of Iran spreads "Tehran's messaging" in a network of institutions it supports in the U.S., for example, [pitting](#) Trump as the Dajjal fighting defenders of the Mahdi, like Khamenei and now his successors.

"What we're seeing is years of deliberate investment by the Islamic Republic inside the United States," Ghalili told Fox News Digital.

"This is happening on American soil, and it's just another way in which the regime poses a direct threat to the United States, this time not with missiles but through infiltration," he said.

A gunman just killed three in Austin, Texas, wearing a sweater that said, "PROPERTY OF ALLAH." According to media reports, law enforcement officials found the flag of the Islamic Republic of Iran and photos of its leaders in his home.

### [ENEMY WITHIN: COUNTERTERRORISM EXPERTS FEAR SLEEPER CELLS COULD BE POISED INSIDE US](#)

After the recent Friday service, two community leaders at the Manassas mosque declined to speak for attribution but told Fox News Digital that the rhetoric of destroying "nonbelievers" and the photos of Khamenei and the terrorist group leaders are meant to challenge "injustice" before the Mahdi appears.

A Harvard University [report](#) on "The Hidden Imam and the End of Time" recognizes the world's two billion Muslims hold a range of beliefs regarding eschatology and many reject strict or literal interpretations.

In the majority Sunni sect and the minority Shiite sect of Islam, clerics describe the Mahdi's army traveling from modern-day Iran to Damascus, Syria, where Jesus would appear at the Umayyad Mosque and pray behind the Mahdi. The Mahdi's forces would battle Dajjal in Syria and kill him in Lod, Israel, conquering the world.

Days ago, Iran's state-run Islamic Republic News Agency [repeated](#) the end-times narrative, quoting Hezbollah Secretary General Sheikh Naim Qassem, claiming the regime is the "government of Imam Mahdi" and its anti-U.S. "resistance is the path to hastening his reappearance."

For women's rights activist Sara Ghorbani, a writer who fled Iran's rigid theocratic rule in 2010, the regime's death grip on power is disturbing.

"We're fighting an evil that the world doesn't truly comprehend in its belief that it has a divine mandate to usher in a day of apocalypse," Ghorbani told Fox News Digital.

"Our brave people in Iran are fighting a tyranny that believes it is God's salvation for this earth when, in fact, it is a cruel and ungodly regime that is actually their own prophecy of Dajjal," added Ghorbani, who created a [short video](#) of children the Iranian regime allegedly killed in recent weeks.

In Dearborn, Michigan, Usama Abdulghani, imam at the Hadi Institute, recently posted a controversial video on a YouTube channel for "Light of Guidance,"

which [says](#) on its YouTube page that its content isn't connected to any other organization.

Before war broke out, he [warned](#) congregants that "the empire is now right outside the door" of Iran, in the form of U.S. forces. The Hadi Institute and the Light of Guidance didn't respond to requests for comment about the cleric's statements.

In another lecture, he [reassured](#) congregants, "Iran has been waiting for the mother of all battles for 47 years," since 1979. He said Americans shouldn't fight "for this empire."

He urged congregants to engage in a "clarification jihad" and convert Americans to Islam "before Imam Mahdi returns."

In its report, the National Union for Democracy in Iran alleges that the Hadi Institute is a "rhetorically aggressive node in the pro-Iran ecosystem." It has a publishing enterprise that [says on its website](#) that its staff "deliver an unfiltered message in promoting an Islamic worldview in preparation of the Mahdi." The Hadi Institute and its publishing initiative didn't respond to questions about the criticisms about its work.

The National Union for Democracy in Iran alleges anti-U.S. propaganda, like the doomsday scenario, is often expressed at venues supported by a pro-regime New York-based 501(c)(3) organization, the Alavi Foundation, which it alleges has built "durable, institution-based influence networks operating inside the United States through religious, educational and nonprofit structures."

In its latest [IRS Form 990 filing](#), the Alavi Foundation, headquartered on Fifth Avenue in midtown Manhattan, reported \$58 million in assets. The Alavi Foundation didn't respond to a request for comment about the allegations that it promotes propaganda that supports the regime in Iran.

At one point, Abdulghani [reassured](#) his congregation that Iran would defeat U.S. forces, saying, "Iran has something for these guys. Don't be worried about Iran. Iran has been waiting for the mother of all battles for 47 years. They've been waiting for this. Iran is prepared. Don't worry about that. Iran's going to be able to handle its business."

In a [new report](#), researchers at the National Contagion Research Institute, based in Princeton, N.J., analyzed regime narratives alleging the CIA and Israel's Mossad spy agency, fomented January's protests against the regime, an allegation that Abdulghani [repeated](#). They found "decentralized influence networks," including in the U.S., "operationalize and amplify" pro-regime narratives.

The pro-regime messaging even invokes the end-times narrative to children. In late December, the "Muslim Student Association Persian-Speaking Group of North America" [shared](#) a video showing children coloring paper masks, swords and shields labeled "Ya Mahdi, Labayk," or "Oh Mahdi, come." The children staged mock attacks with their paper weapons amid Legos and glitter.

A few years ago, a video from the Islamic Education Center of Houston [went viral](#) in Iran, featuring students saying they would be soldiers for Imam Mahdi, singing, "I make an oath to be your martyr." The center didn't respond to requests for comment, but an academic [told](#) the local media the video was metaphorical allegiance to a religious figure.

The messianic messaging also extends to pro-regime media platforms. Earlier this month, a media website, TMJ News Network, [published](#) an article headlined, "The Promise of Justice Amid Corruption," featuring an image of convicted child sex predator [Jeffrey Epstein](#) alongside a green-cloaked silhouette and images of other figures referenced in documents released by the Justice Department. Only Epstein co-conspirator Ghislaine Maxwell has been implicated in illegal conduct in connection with the Epstein case.

The article stated that "against this backdrop, the Mahdist movement represents a promise of justice."

# [Earthquake swarm rattles central Nevada near Tonopah along newly identified fault | Mynews4.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #earthquakes, #nevada, #tonopah

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A swarm of earthquakes has been rattling a remote stretch of central Nevada near Tonopah, including a magnitude 4.0 quake that hit near Warm Springs Tuesday mor

A swarm of earthquakes has been rattling a remote stretch of central Nevada near Tonopah, including a magnitude 4.0 quake that hit near Warm Springs Tuesday morning.

Seismologists said the activity is typical for Nevada, where clusters of earthquakes can flare up in a concentrated area. “This is a very Nevada-style earthquake sequence. We have these a lot where we just see an uptick in activity in a certain spot,” said Christie Rowe, director of the Nevada Seismological Lab.

The latest magnitude 4.0 quake struck east of Tonopah near Warm Springs. The largest earthquake in the swarm so far has measured a 4.2.

What has stood out to researchers is the fault involved. Rowe said the earthquakes are occurring along a fault stretching along the southern edge of the Monitor and Antelope ranges — and that it was previously unknown to scientists. “We didn’t know this fault was there. It’s a new fault to us — not to the Earth, obviously — but it was previously unknown,” Rowe said.

For now, the earthquakes have remained moderate. Rowe said the lab would not deploy additional temporary sensors unless activity increases to around a magnitude 5 or greater.

Seismologists said they are continuing to watch the swarm closely as Nevada works to bring the ShakeAlert early warning system to the state. The program, already active in neighboring states, can send cellphone alerts seconds before shaking arrives. “For me, it’s a really high priority. That distance to the faults gives us enough time to warn people — and that can make a big difference in reducing injuries and damage,” Rowe said.

Seismologists encouraged anyone who feels shaking to report it through the U.S. Geological Survey’s [“Did You Feel It”](#) system, saying even small quakes can help scientists better understand Nevada’s seismic activity.

Experts said the swarm is worth monitoring but is not cause for alarm. They noted that earthquakes like the 5.8 that hit near Yerington in December 2024 typically happen in Nevada about every eight to 10 years, and said they will continue monitoring the current activity closely.