



SIGNS OF THE TIMES

News Articles for Episode 379

China's Xi pushes a new global order, flanked by leaders of Russia and India | Reuters

#bibleprophecy, #china, #russia, #india, #summit

Sep 1, 2025

- Xi-led summit challenges current U.S.-led global order
- Xi hosted 20 leaders, including Russia's Putin and India's Modi
- China offers aid, AI cooperation to SCO initiative members

TIANJIN, China, Sept 1 (Reuters) - Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday pressed his vision for a new global security and economic order that prioritises the "Global South", in a direct challenge to the United States, during a summit that included the leaders of Russia and India.

"We must continue to take a clear stand against hegemonism and power politics, and practise true multilateralism," Xi said, in a thinly veiled swipe at the United States and President Donald Trump's tariff policies.

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"Global governance has reached a new crossroads," he added.

Xi was hosting more than 20 leaders of non-Western countries at a summit in the Chinese port city of Tianjin for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, a China-backed initiative given renewed impetus by the presence of Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In an image designed to convey a mood of solidarity, Putin and Modi were shown holding hands as they walked jovially towards Xi before the summit opened. The three men stood shoulder-to-shoulder, laughing and surrounded by interpreters.

"It's hard to tell if the scene was choreographed or improvised, but it doesn't really matter," wrote Eric Olander, editor-in-chief of The China-Global South Project, a research agency.

"If the U.S. president and his acolytes thought they could use tariffs to pressure China, India, or Russia into submission, that (encounter) says otherwise."

After the summit, Modi shared a ride with Putin in the Russian leader's armoured Aurus limousine en route to their bilateral meeting.

"Conversations with him are always insightful," Modi wrote on X. At the bilateral meeting, Putin addressed Modi in Russian as "Dear Mr Prime Minister, dear friend."

China and India are the biggest buyers of crude oil from Russia, the world's second largest exporter. Trump has imposed additional tariffs on [India](#) over the purchases but not on China.

Little known outside the region, the Beijing-headquartered SCO was formed more than two decades ago as a regional security bloc. China, Russia and four Central Asian states are founding members. India joined in 2017.

Xi did not set out any concrete measures in what he called his "Global Governance Initiative" - the latest in a series of policy frameworks from Beijing geared to promoting China's leadership and challenging the U.S.-dominated international organisations that took shape after World War Two.

Earlier, Xi also pushed for what he described as more inclusive economic globalisation amid the upheaval caused by Trump's tariff policies, touting the SCO's "mega-scale market" and economic opportunity.

'NEW SYSTEM OF STABILITY'

[Putin](#), whose country has forged even closer economic and security ties with China amid the fallout from the Ukraine war, said the SCO had revived "genuine multilateralism", with national currencies increasingly used in mutual settlements.

"This, in turn, lays the political and socio-economic groundwork for the formation of a new system of stability and security in Eurasia," Putin said.

"This security system, unlike Euro-centric and Euro-Atlantic models, would genuinely consider the interests of a broad range of countries, be truly balanced, and would not allow one country to ensure its own security at the expense of others."

Xi called for the creation of a new SCO development bank, in what would be a major step towards the bloc's long-held aspiration of developing an alternative payment system that circumvents the U.S. dollar and the power of U.S. sanctions.

Beijing will provide 2 billion yuan (\$280 million) of free aid to member states this year and a further 10 billion yuan of loans to an SCO banking consortium.

China will also build an artificial intelligence cooperation centre for SCO nations, which are also invited to participate in China's lunar research station, Xi added.

Beijing has used the summit as an opportunity to mend ties with New Delhi. Modi, visiting China for the first time in seven years, and Xi [agreed](#) on Sunday their countries are development partners, not rivals, and discussed ways to improve trade.

Separately, Xi will preside over a massive military parade on Wednesday in Beijing where he is expected to be joined by Putin and North Korean leader [Kim Jong Un](#).

That parade - to celebrate the 80th anniversary of Japan's surrender in World War Two - will feature China's latest military technology in a show of force that analysts say will aim to intimidate and deter potential rivals.

(\$1 = 7.1529 Chinese yuan renminbi)

Global media stages Israel blackout in protest of Gaza war | The Jerusalem Post

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #media, #journalists, #protests, #gaza

Sep 1, 2025

Over 200 media outlets worldwide staged a coordinated blackout protest to condemn the killing of journalists in Gaza and call for the protection of press freedom and independent reporting.

For potentially the first time in modern history, over 200 media outlets across the globe participated in a large-scale editorial protest [for Gaza](#) on Monday.

The Global Media Blackout was coordinated by [Reporters without Borders](#) (RSF), the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and the campaign movement Avaaz.

As part of the blackout protest, print newspapers will run blacked-out front pages, broadcasters and radio stations will pause programming with a joint statement and online outlets will black out their homepages or banners [in solidarity](#).

JPost Videos

The joint led campaign gave print publications four options: an entirely black front page with unified message, entirely black front page without unified message, a partially black page or a black masthead. For online publications, ISJ, RSF and Avaaz suggested a black banner with or without a unified message.

For broadcasters, the following message on a black TV screen or spoken over a metronome sound was encouraged: "At the rate [journalists are being killed in Gaza](#) by the Israeli army, there will soon be no one left to keep you informed. In nearly 23 months, at least 210 journalists have been killed by the Israeli army in this territory, according to Reporters Without Borders. We, and more than 150 other media outlets across the world, condemn these crimes. And we call on the Israeli authorities to allow independent access for the international press in the Gaza Strip."

For potentially the first time in modern history, over 200 media outlets across the globe participated in a large-scale editorial protest for Gaza on Monday. (credit: screenshot)Thibaut Bruttin, RSF Director General said, "At the rate at which journalists are being killed in Gaza by the IDF, soon there will be no one left to keep the world informed."

"This is not only a war on Gaza, it is a war on journalism itself. Journalists are being killed, they are being targeted, they are being defamed. Without them, who will speak of famine, who will expose war crimes, who will denounce genocides."

"The solidarity of news media and journalists around the world is essential. They must be thanked: it is the fraternity of reporters that will save press freedom, the fraternity that will save freedom."

"It is very clear that Gaza is being turned into a graveyard for journalists for a reason," said Andrew Legon, Campaign Director at Avaaz. "Israel's far-right government is trying to finish the job in the dark, without the scrutiny of the press."

Anthony Bellanger, IFJ General Secretary added, "Every journalist killed in Gaza was someone's colleague, friend, or family. We demand justice and a UN International Convention on the safety and independence of journalists."

The full list of publications involved in the blackout can be found [here](#). It involves 50 countries, and features well-known outlets such as El Diario, La Vanguardia and El Pais in Spain, Taz in Germany, Il Fatto Quotidiano in Italy and The Independent in the UK.

Highlighting bias against Israel in the media

Israel's foreign ministry responded by saying that when "media outlets choose in a synchronized manner to stop reporting news, to throw values of the press and plurality of opinions into the trash, and instead publish a uniform, pre-scripted political manifesto against Israel, that tells you how great the bias against Israel is in the global media."

"The reports we see in the global media regarding Gaza do not tell the real story there. They tell the campaign of lies that Hamas spreads."

"This is not journalism. This is politics," the ministry added.

Speaker at Michigan's Radical "People's Conference for Palestine" Calls for Assassinations of U.S., Israeli, and European Leaders Who Oppose Palestinian Statehood | The Gateway Pundit

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #anti-semitism, #gaza, #assassination

Sep 2, 2025

The mask is off.

At the so-called "People's Conference for Palestine," a speaker openly called for political assassinations on U.S. soil.

Nidal Jboor, who was previously arrested during the U.S. Capitol protests, took the stage this weekend and delivered a chilling tirade that sounded less like activism and more like a recruitment speech for terrorism.

Western leaders, whether in Washington, Tel Aviv, or Europe, should be "locked up, taken out, neutralized."

He cloaked his violent rhetoric in language about "love for the children" while simultaneously demonizing "Jewish supremacists" and "Christian evangelicals," whom he claimed hold the "thrones of power."

Jboor made it clear that in his view, "speaking up isn't enough, it's time to escalate and act."

Nidal Jboor:

"Gaza needs to be saved now. It saved all of us, liberated all of us. It is time for us to pay back and stop the criminals, the perpetrators, the child murderers—and we all know who they are. We all know who they are, whether they are in Israel, Tel Aviv, Washington, Germany, or Europe. We all name them. We all know them.

They need to be locked up. They need to be taken out. They need to be neutralized to save children, to save humanity. We are not saying this out of hate—we are saying this out of love. Love for the children, love for life, love for humanity, where every life is equal. We only hate the war criminals, the child murderers.

We need to act now. Speaking up alone is not enough. It's two years old—we have been speaking up for two years. Now it's time to escalate and to act, to get the murderers out, to save the children. Thank you.

The war criminals and the migrants who are owning these systems, they want the whole world to be owned by these few supremacists—whether they are Jewish supremacists or Christian supremacists, Christian evangelicals, or meagerage.

It is now or never. We need to mobilize. If we wait five years, ten years, their system will be so strong that we, the people, cannot fight it. We need to take the thrones of power from them, and we, the people, need to create a better world and better humanity for everyone.”

[Afghanistan hit by magnitude 6.0 earthquake, dozens feared injured | Fox News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #earthquake, #afghanistan, #pakistan, #destruction

Sep 1, 2025

Shallow quake struck 17 miles from Jalalabad late Sunday, with damage assessment ongoing

A magnitude 6.0 earthquake struck eastern [Afghanistan](#) near its shared border with Pakistan late Sunday, killing upwards of 800 people and injuring thousands more.

[The quake](#) was reported at 11:47 p.m. some 17 miles east-northeast of the city of Jalalabad in Nangarhar province, the U.S. Geological Survey said.

Footage showed rescuers taking injured people on stretchers from collapsed buildings and into helicopters as people frantically dug through rubble with their hands.

A Taliban government spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, said at a press conference that most of the casualties were in Kunar province.

Buildings in Afghanistan tend to be low-rise constructions, mostly of concrete and brick, with homes in rural and outlying areas made from mud bricks and wood. Many are of poor construction.

[RUSSIAN VOLCANO ERUPTS FOR FIRST TIME IN CENTURIES AFTER MASSIVE EARTHQUAKE STRIKES KAMCHATKA PENINSULA](#)

The earthquake was just 5 miles deep and shallower quakes tend to cause more damage.

A 4.5 magnitude quake occurred in the same province just after midnight.

Afghanistan is especially vulnerable to earthquakes, particularly in the [Hindu Kush Mountain range](#) where the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates meet.

One of the deadliest natural disasters to strike Afghanistan in recent memory occurred on Oct. 7, 2023, when a 6.3 earthquake struck the South-Central Asian nation, followed by strong aftershocks.

The Taliban government estimated that at least 4,000 people perished, though the U.N. gave a far lower death toll of about 1,500.

Chagas disease spreading in US, primarily California, CDC study finds | Fox News

#bibleprophecy, #earthquake, #afghanistan, #pakistan, #destruction

Sep 1, 2025

Chagas disease transmitted by 'kissing bugs' confirmed in eight states, primarily California

A little-known disease is [spreading in the U.S.](#), primarily in the state of California, health officials warn.

In a new study published in the CDC journal Emerging Infectious Diseases, researchers state that human cases of Chagas disease have been confirmed in eight states, leading them to recommend that the disease is classified as "endemic."

"Acknowledging the endemicity of Chagas disease in the United States is crucial for achieving global health goals," the authors wrote.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines a disease as "endemic" when there is a "constant presence and/or usual prevalence" in a population within a specific geographic area — in other words, the "baseline" level of disease within a community.

"Chagas disease (or American trypanosomiasis) is already endemic in South America and Central America, but it has now spread to the Southern U.S., where it is taking hold among insects and animals," Fox News senior medical analyst Dr. Marc Siegel told Fox News Digital.

What is Chagas disease?

Chagas disease is a parasitic illness spread by triatomine bugs, also known as "[kissing bugs](#)," according to the CDC.

The disease is transmitted when feces from bugs infected with the *T. cruzi* parasite enter a person's body, typically through a bite wound or contact with the eyes or mouth.

"When the kissing bug takes a blood meal, it will eventually defecate and leave the feces somewhere," lead study author Dr. Norman Beatty, assistant professor of medicine at the University of Florida College of Medicine, told Fox News Digital.

"Sometimes it can 'poop' on our skin or mucous membrane while feeding, and then the parasite enters at that site. The bug's feces can also end up inside or near a home and then be incidentally ingested or rubbed into the skin or mucous membrane."

Transmission in the U.S. can also occur from congenital infection, where a chronically infected mother can transmit the parasite to a fetus, or from [organ transplantation](#), according to Beatty.

Signs and symptoms

The first stage of Chagas disease, called the acute phase, happens shortly after infection. It is followed by the longer-term chronic phase, according to the CDC.

The disease does not always cause illness, but some people can experience symptoms.

"Chagas can lead to fever, fatigue, rash, body aches and lymph node swelling, and later can lead to [digestive issues](#), heart problems and neurological involvement," Siegel warned.

"What really matters is whether or not the kissing bug has been found invading homes and harbors the parasite."

Another hallmark of the disease is eyelid swelling, also known as Romana's sign.

In the chronic phase, about 20% to 30% of people with the infection may experience potentially fatal [heart issues](#) or serious digestive problems, the CDC states.

Prevalence of the disease

Approximately 300,000 people are living with Chagas disease who acquired the infection in [Latin America](#) and the U.S., according to Beatty.

"However, the exact number is unknown — a national prevalence study has never been conducted," he told Fox News Digital.

The disease is more likely to occur in states where the kissing bug is found close to where people live, which includes parts of California, Arizona, Texas, Louisiana and Florida, according to the expert.

"What really matters is whether the kissing bug has been found invading homes and harbors the parasite that causes Chagas disease in a particular region," he said, adding that researchers are "just tipping the iceberg" with their understanding of locally acquired disease in the U.S.

"Unfortunately, most of the United States is unaware of this 'silent killer' and the fact that it is spread by a bug," he said.

"Our first steps are recognizing that this is an endemic infectious disease, building on improved education among the public and [healthcare providers](#), and allocating funding for research and programs to support testing and additional monitoring."

The expert refers to Chagas as a "neglected tropical disease."

"Our hope as a team researching Chagas here in the U.S. is that we bring awareness to the fact that this infectious disease is being transmitted here and can be deadly," he told Fox News Digital. "[More research](#) and resources are needed so we can help mitigate transmission to at-risk communities, especially those living in rural and agricultural sectors."

Screening and treatments

In most circumstances, Beatty said, people are bitten by the bug in their bed or home.

"From there, a person will reach out with a picture of that bug, and we start the process of testing and educating on how to prevent the insect from getting in the home and deterring it from wanting to be around a human dwelling."

Lab screening tests and treatments are readily available, Beatty said, but clinicians are largely unaware that the disease is being transmitted in certain communities.

There are two [antiparasitic drugs](#) approved for the treatment of Chagas disease in the U.S. — Benznidazole and Lampit (nifurtimox).

"Currently, there is a clinical trial being conducted to assess a new agent for the treatment of Chagas at certain centers in the U.S. and Latin America," Beatty said.

There are [no vaccines](#) currently available to prevent the disease.

It can be a challenge for patients in rural America to find a provider who understands this disease, Beatty noted.

"In my clinic, people have traveled from other states to see me in Florida just because they have no one else near them willing to care for them," the researcher said.

"It is essential that we start educating our future clinicians about Chagas disease and ways to test, treat and manage those infected."

"People have traveled from other states to see me in Florida just because they have no one else near them willing to care for them."

Beatty also shared some tips for preventing kissing bugs from entering the home.

That includes removing "harborages" of [nesting animals](#) near a home where rodents would reside, such as piles of wood or clutter.

Sealing up door jambs, window seals and other entry points, as well as placing screens on windows and doors, can also be effective.

Beatty also recommends "judicial use" of residual pesticide-spraying near potential entry points, like door jambs and window perimeters.

Silicon Valley 'Christian' goes viral for chilling AI-Antichrist theory. Should we listen to him? | Blaze Media

#bibleprophecy, #anti-christ, #end times, #christianity, #artificial intelligence

Sep 1, 2025

Allie Beth Stuckey dives into Peter Thiel's strange Antichrist theory with scripture as her guiding light.

Peter Thiel might be the biggest head-scratcher in Silicon Valley. He's a billionaire, a Trump-Vance-supporting Republican, a married gay man, a transhumanism enthusiast, and ... *drum roll* ... a "Christian."

He's publicly declared that Christianity is true and that Christ is the best role model; he's deeply involved in various Christian organizations; and yet he's openly admitted his affinity for transhumanism, believing that the future of humanity is a world where man conquers mortality by fusing with [technology](#). It's a twisted, human-centric version of the transformed, glorified body Christians are promised after death, says [BlazeTV](#) host [Allie Beth Stuckey](#).

Recently Thiel has been in the headlines for his seminars on the Antichrist, which are a bizarre blend of theology and his controversial views on technology and transhumanism. In short, Thiel speculates that Revelation's beast will be deeply connected to [artificial intelligence](#). Whether a human leveraging AI for control, a pseudo-human system, or an AI-driven global order, Thiel is confident that artificial intelligence will play a key role in the end times.

And he's not the first to suggest this. The idea that AI and the Antichrist are irrevocably connected — and maybe even synonymous — is a theory that has gained traction in recent years. When you think about it, the proposition isn't all that crazy. AI's capacity for global control, deception, economic dominance through digital systems, and false promises of salvation uncannily mirrors Revelation's description of the Antichrist's deceptive, totalitarian rule.

Despite Thiel's theological waywardness, is there merit to his Antichrist warnings? Should we take him seriously?

BlazeTV host Allie Beth Stuckey dove into Thiel's Antichrist theory on a recent episode of "Relatable." Her conclusion? It's complicated.

In an interview with New York Times opinion columnist Ross Douthat on the "Interesting Times" podcast, Thiel described the Antichrist as "a potential systemic

threat rather than a literal individual, suggesting it could manifest as a one-world totalitarian state that promises peace and safety but suppresses freedom,” says Allie.

He explained that the Antichrist might weaponize fearmongering about technology’s dangers, like rogue AI, to trick people into accepting a powerful, centralized (likely AI-enabled) authority. In other words, he (or it) would convince the globe that the only way to avoid technology-induced apocalyptic scenarios and ensure safety and peace for all is to consolidate power, including technological power, under a global regime.

But some have noticed a strange incongruence. Thiel co-founded Palantir Technologies, which develops and produces the very types of technology he claims the Antichrist could wield against humanity.

Douthat called him out on this contradiction in their interview. “You’re an investor in AI; you’re deeply invested in Palantir, in military technology, in technologies of surveillance, in technologies of warfare, and so on, right? And it just seems to me that when you tell me a story about the Antichrist coming to power and using the fear of technological change to sort of impose order on the world, I feel like that Antichrist would maybe be using the tools that you are building,” he said.

Another glaring contradiction is Thiel’s support for transhumanism — the merging of man and machine to achieve immortality. This is, again, the very type of technology he warns could be monopolized and weaponized by the Antichrist.

What gives?

When Allie heard Thiel’s Antichrist theory, her red flag immediately went up. Thiel’s prediction seems to suggest that because the Antichrist will promote “technological stagnation” in order to gather power to himself, the best way to prevent such a scenario is to continue investing and advancing technology — even merging with it.

“It is interesting and maybe questionable that someone who makes a lot of money through technology would say that stopping technological innovation is actually going to, you know, usher in the Antichrist,” she says.

But more importantly, does Thiel’s prediction square with scripture’s accounts of the Antichrist?

The Bible outlines the Antichrist as a “man of lawlessness” (2 Thessalonians 2) who will exercise authority over “every tribe and people and language and nation” (Revelation 13) and eventually declare himself God. He is the evil harbinger of Christ’s second coming.

“So the debate that Peter Thiel is wading into is what is the means by which this person will be able to convince so many people that he is powerful and needs to have all this authority,” says Allie.

“Is it possible that this person uses the threat and the fear of AI-powered Armageddon to gain his power? I would say that is possible. ... But is he some kind of metaphor for technological stagnation or climate change or whatever it is? No. [The Antichrist] is an *actual* man,” she explains.

“I do think it's interesting that Peter Thiel is talking about something like this. I would recommend that he and every single person get right with God.”

To hear more on Thiel's Antichrist theories and Allie's thorough analysis, watch the episode above.

[Fla. county approves adding Ten Commandments to gov't buildings | Christian Post.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #ten commandments, #government, #florida

Sep 3, 2025

A Florida county has approved a recommendation to add copies of the Ten Commandments to a display of historical documents in government buildings.

The Collier County Board of County Commissioners [voted 4-1](#) last week to approve Item 10.B following hours of debate and public comment both for and against the proposal.

“Recommendation to display the Ten Commandments as part of a larger exhibit depicting the foundations of American law and government in appropriate publicly accessible locations on County property to be selected by the County Manager,” read the proposal.

Collier County Commissioner Chris Hall of District 2, who sponsored the recommendation, told The Christian Post that he was inspired to do so after speaking with an 87-year-old local school board member.

“I thought it was a great idea just to encourage people to bring about the acknowledgment of moral values, virtue, humility, and getting back to what made this country great in the beginning,” said Hall.

The commissioner told CP that he was “super-pleased” that the proposal was approved, though he “never anticipated the resistance that came about” and was “actually shocked that people would resist just a simple measure.”

With the recommendation passed, local officials, including the county attorney, will meet to discuss the matter and how to add the Ten Commandments to the historical documents display.

The proposed display is expected to have at least eight historical documents, according to Hall, who noted that a specific sample for the final design has not yet been approved.

Hall’s recommendation received mixed reactions from locals, as well as criticism from progressive advocates, including the Rev. Sharon Harris-Euing, president of the Interfaith Alliance of Southwest Florida.

“Everything about it seems inappropriate and contrary to the principles of a free society where religion and government are separate,” said Harris-Euing, according to [Fox 4](#) in Cape Coral.

“Christians are not to be preferred, and the Christian perspective is not to be ascendant. I say that with humility and deep commitment as a Christian minister.”

Collier County Commissioner Burt L. Saunders, who represents District 3 and was the lone vote against the proposal, explained at last week’s meeting that while “I certainly believe in the concept of the Ten Commandments and the admonitions contained in the Ten Commandments,” he felt it was a “divisive issue” that was “not a function of county government.”

Saunders quoted from a letter from an unnamed local woman who wrote that “even when presented as part of a larger exhibit, incorporating a religious text into government-sponsored display risks compromising the principle of the separation of church and state.”

Hall dismissed the concerns over church and state separation, telling CP that the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment was “clearly meant to keep the state out of the church and not the other way around.”

“The mere mention of the word of God or prayer or Christianity or anything does not mean that we are putting religion on to people. It has nothing to do with that,” Hall continued.

“By displaying the Ten Commandments with other public documents and other historical documents, we have in no form or fashion put religion on people.”