



# **SIGNS OF THE TIMES**

**News Articles for Episode 403**

# [Jews pray on Jerusalem's Temple Mount as decades-old status quo begins to shift | The Jerusalem Post.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #temple mount, #prayer, #jerusalem

Feb 13, 2026

Police are allowing limited Jewish prayer on Temple Mount, marking the most significant shift to the status quo since 1967 - and stirring quiet tension on one of the world's most contested sites.

Escorted by police, a group of about 25 people walked across the [Temple Mount](#) esplanade to the steps leading up to the Dome of the Rock, the site where the First and Second Temples once stood.

They climbed a few steps toward the mosque, singing "Yedid Nefesh" ("soulmate"), usually sung on Friday nights.

"Are you with us?" a policeman asked this reporter.

When I said no, he told me to stop filming as participants in the group continued to video themselves walking on the large courtyard of the mount.

The men did not want to be interviewed, but Ilana, one of the few women in the group – who asked that only her first name be used – agreed to speak.

Jews visit the Temple Mount, the site where the First and Second Temples once stood. Holy to both Jews and Muslims, it has been a flashpoint since 1967. (credit: LINDA GRADSTEIN)

Wearing a white kerchief covering her hair, Ilana said she had immigrated to Israel from the Ukraine.

"I used to go to pray at the Kotel," she said, referring to the Western Wall, just below the Temple Mount. "But then I started coming here whenever I had the opportunity. It feels very special to pray here."

A few Muslims sitting on a nearby stone wall watched the group silently.

Ali, who said he goes to pray every day at Al-Aqsa (so called because it was "the farthest" mosque from Mecca when the Quran was revealed), said Jewish groups visiting and even praying there doesn't bother him.

"It does disturb some people, but it doesn't bother me," he said. "If they do it quietly, it's okay. People should worship God in the way they want to."

But other Palestinians disagreed. A group of three women from the Galilee, who said they come about once a week to pray at the mosque for their families and for those who were killed in Gaza, frowned as they watched the Jewish group.

“This place is for Islam, and [Jews](#) are supposed to pray at the Wall,” Samira said.

Indeed, that has been the case since 1967 when Israel took over Jerusalem’s Old City from Jordan during the Six Day War. For many Israelis, it was the fulfillment of a dream, with the chance to pray at the Kotel – the Western Wall. The iconic photo of three paratroopers standing at the Wall is inscribed into every Israeli’s DNA.

The Temple Mount, which Muslims call the Haram al-Sharif, is holy to both Jews and Muslims.

For Jews, it is the site of both the First and Second Temples (destroyed in 586 BCE and 70 CE, respectively), and the holiest site in Judaism. For Muslims, it is the site where Mohammed ascended to heaven on a miraculous trip called Isra’ and Mi’raj (“the night journey and ascension”) and is the third-holiest site after Mecca and Medina.

### **Some approve, others don’t**

When Israel conquered east Jerusalem in 1967 and later annexed it, then-defense minister Moshe Dayan made a controversial decision to allow the Waqf (Islamic religious trust) to continue administering the site, while Israel would be responsible for its security.

In an effort to ease potential tensions in 1967, the government made a decision that while Jews could visit the site, they could not pray, dance, or engage in any other religious activity.

As part of the deal, while Muslim prayer is permitted in the area, and hundreds of thousands go there to pray during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan (see box), Jewish prayer was not permitted.

The area has long been a flashpoint for Israeli-Palestinian tensions, and riots have repeatedly broken out after Muslim worshipers threw rocks at Jews praying at the Western Wall below and police stormed the area.

Hamas’s name for the massacre of [Oct. 7, 2023](#), is “Al-Aqsa Flood,” an effort to rally the Muslim world around this religiously significant location.

In the past few years, the number of Jews ascending to the Temple Mount has increased dramatically to more than 68,000 in the Hebrew year that ended in September 2025, an increase of 22% over the previous year, according to the Beyadenu activist group. The change is also partly due to recent rabbinic rulings that according to Jewish law, Jews are allowed to visit part of the Temple Mount esplanade – the large area that includes both the Dome of the Rock and the Aqsa Mosque.

Some rabbis have said that Jews should not visit the area, either because of ritual purity laws or because there are some parts like the Holy of Holies that only the high priest was allowed to enter, and only on Yom Kippur.

Now, in the past few weeks, in what amounts to a dramatic change to the status quo that has prevailed since 1967, police have begun to allow Jewish prayer on the Temple Mount under certain conditions.

### **Not a concentration camp**

Five months ago, Rabbi Leo Dee, whose first wife and two of their daughters were killed in a terrorist attack on April 7, 2023, ascended the Temple Mount on the day of his second wedding.

He said it is a custom to go to the site on your wedding day. He arrived at the Mugrabi Gate, the entrance that is designated for non-Muslims to use, wearing his tefillin.

“Usually, as you go through security, the police ask you to remove your tefillin, but somehow this time they didn’t notice,” he told the Magazine.

“We davened [prayed] all of “Shaharit” from our phones,” he said, “then we danced for a few minutes celebrating my wedding. One of the policemen said, ‘I’d like to escort you to the chief of police because it’s forbidden to put on tefillin.’ I responded that the only place I thought it was forbidden was in concentration camps in Germany.”

Dee said that prayer at the site feels different.

“When you pray there, you pray as near as you can to where Jacob had his dream about the ladder, to where Abraham and his son Isaac were for the Akeida [the binding of Isaac], to where our ancestors would sacrifice animals, and to the place where the Shechina [the presence of God] dwells.”

In any case, in the past few weeks police have allowed Jews to enter the Temple Mount compound with prayer pages, printed by the Temple Mount Yeshiva, whose leaders are close to National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir. This change comes just weeks after he appointed his close associate, Maj.-Gen. Avshalom Peled, as commander of the Jerusalem District Police.

### **Real status quo change?**

Israeli officials deny that there has been a major change to the status quo.

“The Israel Police operates throughout the year to enable freedom of worship and visitation to the Temple Mount for all religions and communities, while strictly maintaining public order and the rules in place at the site, in accordance with the directives of the political echelon,” the police spokesman said in a statement in response to a request for an interview by the *Magazine*.

“Following a request submitted by the administration of the Temple Mount Yeshiva, the police approved the entry of guidance sheets for visitors,” the statement said. “However, in order to maintain the existing order, it was determined that the use of these sheets would be limited to specific areas defined by the police.

“The [Israel Police](#) continues to act with discretion and responsibility in order to maintain a balance between the various needs at the Temple Mount,” it concluded.

But for those who have long advocated for Jewish prayer there, the new rules are a step in the right direction.

“Four years ago, someone would utter a prayer under his breath or say a quick ‘Kaddish,’” said Yisrael Medad, who has been up to the Temple Mount hundreds of times, beginning in 1970. “Now people can prostrate themselves and the police let them pray, sometimes for up to five minutes.”

He has even led tours of the Temple Mount.

“For many people, it is a very powerful experience,” he said. “And if they [Muslims] can pray there, we should be able to pray there.”

Rabbi Dee goes even further.

“We should declare sovereignty over the Temple Mount,” he said. “As long as it is in their hands, they believe they are the sovereign rulers.”

# [White House: There are many arguments for striking Iran, they'd be wise to make a deal | The Times of Israel.com](#)

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

Feb 19, 2026

Trump is reportedly told military ready to launch assault as soon as Saturday, with talks making little progress; Israel on high alert, as Iran said pushing Hezbollah to join if war erupts

The White House warned on Wednesday that Iran would be “wise” to make a deal with the United States as US President Donald Trump once again hinted at military action.

The two sides recently resumed indirect talks, mediated by Oman, after Trump repeatedly threatened military action against Iran over a deadly crackdown on protesters last month and subsequently over its nuclear program.

“Iran would be very wise to make a deal with President Trump and with his administration,” White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters, adding: “There are many reasons and arguments one could make for a strike against Iran.”

[CBS News reported](#) that Trump had been told by his top national security advisers that the US military could launch strikes on Iran as soon as Saturday, as it continued its buildup of forces in the Middle East. The network said the president had yet to make a decision on whether to green-light an attack.

Citing sources familiar with the matter, the US broadcaster said the timeline for a decision was expected to extend beyond this weekend, adding that the Pentagon was temporarily shifting some personnel out of the Middle East in the coming days as it readies for a potential Iranian counterattack if it launches strikes.

On Wednesday, Trump again suggested the United States might strike Iran in a post on his Truth Social site. He warned Britain against giving up sovereignty over the Chagos Islands in the Indian Ocean, saying that the archipelago’s Diego Garcia airbase might be needed were Iran not to agree a deal, “in order to eradicate a potential attack by a highly unstable and dangerous regime — an attack that would potentially be made on the United Kingdom, as well as other friendly countries.”

“Prime Minister Starmer should not lose control, for any reason, of Diego Garcia,” Trump stressed.

Earlier on Wednesday, Tehran’s top diplomat, Abbas Araghchi, said Iran was “drafting” a framework for future talks with the US, after painting the latest round of negotiations

in Geneva on Tuesday as positive. However, a US official described those talks as a “nothing burger,” according to Channel 12.

Leavitt also gave a lukewarm assessment of Tuesday’s negotiations, saying “a little bit of progress” was made but that the sides are “still very far apart on some issues.”

“The Iranians are expected to come back to us with some more detail in the next couple of weeks, so the president will continue to watch how this plays out,” Leavitt added at a press briefing.

She added, “The president has been very clear with respect to Iran and any country around the world that diplomacy is always his first option and Iran would be very wise to make a deal.”

She did not give a deadline. The message is a repeat of what the US has conveyed in different variations for weeks as the world awaits a decision from Trump on whether he will authorize another strike on Iran.

### **Rubio to visit Israel**

A senior US official told Reuters that in the wake of the US-Iran talks in Geneva on Tuesday, Iran is expected to submit a written proposal on how to avoid its standoff with the United States.

Top national security advisers met in the White House Situation Room to discuss Iran and were told all US forces deployed to the region should be in place by mid-March, the official said. In the past few weeks, the US has moved two aircraft carriers and dozens of warships and fighter jets to the Middle East.

A US official also confirmed to The Times of Israel that US Secretary of State Marco Rubio will visit Israel on February 28 to meet with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, amid the heightened tensions over Iran.

Rubio is expected to update Netanyahu on the US-Iran nuclear talks, according to two administration officials.

Meanwhile, a Channel 12 report said that according to US officials, Trump is “very close” to giving orders for a major strike on Iran.

One official said Iran has until the end of the month to agree to a package of significant concessions on its nuclear program.

Tehran has repeatedly threatened to attack Israel and US targets if it is hit.

Israel has carried out meetings at all echelons to prepare for the possibility that Trump gives a green light for a strike, the network reported. Israel also agrees with the negative assessment of the Geneva talks expressed by the US official, according to the report.

“Timetables are growing shorter,” a senior Israeli official told Channel 12, “and that is the case in terms of military preparedness. In the end, there is one man who will decide.”

The IDF Home Front Command and other emergency agencies were instructed to make all necessary preparations for such an outcome, reported Channel 12.

However, a high-level Israeli security cabinet meeting scheduled for Thursday was delayed until Sunday.

Iran was also apparently readying for military conflict while taking steps to keep the talks alive.

On Wednesday, Araghchi held a phone call with Rafael Grossi, the head of the UN nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency.

In the call, Araghchi “stressed the Islamic Republic of Iran’s focus on drafting an initial and coherent framework to advance future talks,” according to a statement from the Iranian foreign ministry.

But an unnamed Iranian official [told](#) The Wall Street Journal that despite talks with the US continuing, Tehran is worried the disagreements with Washington cannot be bridged, making a military confrontation increasingly likely.

“Iran is facing its worst military threat since 1988,” when Iran was fighting a war with Iraq, Iran analyst Farzan Sabet of the Geneva Graduate Institute told the newspaper. “Iran is preparing for strikes by putting its security and political leadership on high alert to prevent decapitation and to protect its nuclear facilities.”

In anticipation of a strike, Iran has been pressing Hezbollah to join any potential war against Israel if one breaks out, Ynet reported.

The report, which did not cite any sources, said that Israel is “closely monitoring the situation and has conveyed very clear warnings to Hezbollah that if it decides to intervene, this time the blow will be very painful.”

According to Ynet, the IDF has prepared a plan to “significantly strike” Hezbollah, amid efforts by the Iran-backed terror proxy to rebuild in Lebanon following a yearlong war with Israel that eliminated its leadership and devastated its capabilities.

Following that war, Hezbollah stayed out of the fighting during the Israel-Iran conflict in June.

In recent months, there has been an uptick in Israeli strikes against Hezbollah operatives and assets in Lebanon, though the report claimed that the terror group’s recovery outpaces the military’s efforts to weaken it.

The report added that Israel is also prepared for the possibility that other Iranian proxies will join a war if one breaks out.

Negotiations between Iran and the US began earlier this month in Oman before the second round in Geneva. They followed Trump's threats to attack Iran after its deadly crackdown on mass anti-regime protests last month.

Iran and the US also held a series of ultimately unsuccessful negotiations over the Iranian nuclear program last year, followed by the US striking Iranian nuclear facilities at the end of the war in June.

Iran has consistently denied seeking to acquire nuclear weapons. However, it enriched uranium to levels that have no peaceful application, obstructed international inspectors from checking its nuclear facilities, and expanded its ballistic missile capabilities. Before the June war, Israel said Iran had taken steps toward weaponization.

The moves toward a possible war came on the first day of Ramadan, which began Tuesday night across the region. In a greeting for the Muslim holy month, President Isaac Herzog wished that Iranians would see the fall of their regime.

"I want to send the people of Iran best wishes for the month of Ramadan," he said. "I truly hope and pray that this reign of terror will end and that we will see a different era in the Middle East."

# [Trump's Board of Peace to convene for 1st time, as US bullish on disarmament prospects | The Times of Israel.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #trump, #board of peace, #hamas, #gaza, #israel

Feb 19, 2026

US official claims no illusions about challenges ahead, says administration encouraged by what mediators in touch with Hamas are reporting; Trump to address event, sign resolutions on Gaza

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump's Board of Peace will hold an inaugural meeting on Thursday in Washington, where it aims to advance the reconstruction of Gaza despite looming questions over whether Hamas will agree to disarm and Israel will consent to further withdraw from the Strip so the planned rebuild can move ahead.

The meeting comes nearly four months since the Trump administration brokered a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip that allowed the release of all remaining Israeli hostages.

Since then, though, both sides have accused one another of near-daily violations of the truce and hundreds of Palestinians have been killed, according to the Hamas-run Gaza health ministry.

Nonetheless, a senior US official pushed back on the notion that progress in Gaza has stalled.

“We are under no illusions on the challenges regarding demilitarization, but we have been encouraged by what the mediators have reported back,” the senior US official said on Wednesday.

While the US is branding Thursday's gathering as an inaugural meeting, Board of Peace members met last month in Switzerland for a signing ceremony on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum.

## **Who is coming?**

The US invited heads of state to join Trump at the Washington confab, but many opted to stay home, with Bahrain's King Hamad Al Khalifa the lone Middle Eastern country head making the trip.

Nearly fifty countries will still be represented, with [Israel](#), Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Turkey, Qatar and others sending foreign ministers or another senior cabinet member.

The Ramallah-based Palestinian Authority was [not invited](#), but National Committee for the Administration of Gaza (NCAG) chief commissioner Ali Shaath will be in attendance, two Arab diplomats told The Times of Israel, and a senior US official said updates regarding the NCAG will also be provided at the Thursday meeting.

Shaath's committee of Palestinian technocrats is tasked with replacing Hamas in Gaza, but the NCAG has yet to enter the Strip, with the Board of Peace's Gaza High Representative Nickolay Mladenov [saying](#) last week that it cannot do so if violations of the ceasefire continue.

In addition, a handful of European countries that have refrained from joining the Board of Peace due to legal complications or concerns that the body may undermine the United Nations will be participating in Thursday's session as observers, the senior US official said.

### **Who is paying?**

Trump said on Sunday that over \$5 billion in pledges for humanitarian aid and reconstruction will be announced at the Thursday meeting.

The Times of Israel [revealed](#) last week that top funders would include Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and the United States — each contributing over \$1 billion.

It's unclear whether additional countries will agree to contribute amid fears that anything rebuilt will be destroyed in the next cycle of violence so long as Hamas remains in power.

### **Who is deploying troops?**

Trump also said Sunday that the countries that have agreed to contribute thousands of personnel to the International Stabilization Force will also be announced at the Thursday gathering.

Italy's Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani will be among those leading observer delegations, after Rome expressed willingness to contribute to the ISF along with Indonesia.

However, Jakarta and other countries weighing participation in the ISF have [stressed](#) they would only want their troops to partake in more modest peacekeeping missions such as securing borders and humanitarian aid, as opposed to enforcement operations that could require combatting Hamas and other armed groups in order to take away their weapons.

A more limited ISF mandate will require Hamas to willingly give up its guns or risk a return to war, as being threatened by Israel.

Egypt, Qatar and Turkey have been holding talks with Hamas for months regarding the decommissioning of weapons in Gaza.

The US is still working on a formal disarmament proposal to present to Hamas, but two sources familiar with the effort told The Times of Israel last week that the plan's fundamental principle will be stripping Hamas of tools that can be used to threaten Israel.

The plan also envisions a gradual process beginning with heavy weaponry and the destruction of weapon manufacturing sites in addition to incentivizing the handover of lighter weapons by offering funds, jobs and amnesty to those who cooperate, the sources said.

The proposal will focus on one section of Gaza at a time, rather than the entire Strip at once. Accordingly, it will take months to finish, the sources added.

While this may not lead to the recovery of every single weapon belonging to terror groups in the Strip, the US believes that enough pressure from Middle East mediating countries can prevent Hamas from playing spoiler, the sources said.

### **Who is speaking?**

The Thursday gathering will begin with breakfast at 9 a.m.

Trump will arrive at 10 a.m. to provide opening remarks and sign a number of resolutions pertaining to Gaza.

The head of each delegation in attendance was instructed to offer brief remarks, during which they are encouraged to announce their contributions to the Gaza reconstruction effort.

There will also be speeches from US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, top Trump aides Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff, US Ambassador to the UN Mike Waltz, former UK prime minister Tony Blair and the Board of Peace's High Representative for Gaza Nickolay Mladenov, the US official says.

Rubio is a member of the Board of Peace's Executive Board, while Kushner, Witkoff, Blair and Mladenov are members of the Board of Peace's Gaza Executive Board. Both panels are expected to play a role in overseeing the postwar management of Gaza.

Trump will participate in a group photo before leaving at 11 a.m., while the event will continue for another hour, according to a schedule sent to attendees.

# [Dozens killed and thousands displaced as powerful cyclone rips through nation | Yahoo! News.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #cyclone, #madagascar, #disaster, #destruction

Feb 13, 2026

Tropical Cyclone Gezani killed at least 31 people after slamming into Madagascar's eastern coast this week, leaving thousands without homes and a major city in ruins, reported the [AP News](#).

## **What's happening?**

Gezani tore through Toamasina, a port city of about 300,000 on the island's east side, late on Tuesday with wind speeds topping 121 mph. Collapsing buildings accounted for a large share of the fatalities, according to the national disaster management agency. Another 36 people sustained serious injuries, four remain unlocated, and upward of 6,000 had to abandon where they lived.

According to the president's office, about three-quarters of Toamasina's built environment was wrecked. Electricity has not returned to the city since Tuesday.

"It's devastation. Roofs have been blown away, walls have collapsed, power poles are down, trees have been uprooted. It looks like a catastrophic landscape," said Michel, a Toamasina resident who declined to provide his surname, by phone.

After crossing the island, Gezani lost intensity but could strengthen again in waters separating Madagascar from the African mainland, with forecasts warning it may loop back to hit the island's southwestern coast. Mozambique, still reeling after floods displaced over 700,000 residents last month, put three coastal provinces on alert.

This is the second cyclone to strike Madagascar in two weeks. Tropical Cyclone Fytia arrived Jan. 31, killing 14 and forcing more than 85,000 people from their homes.

## **Why are worsening cyclone seasons concerning?**

Madagascar ranks as Earth's fourth-biggest island, with a population of 31 million. Most of its people are low-income, and homes across the country offer minimal defense against severe weather.

Cyclones typically barrel through between November and March, giving communities almost no breathing room to piece things back together between hits.

The island has endured upward of 12 cyclones and tropical storms since 2020. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction puts the yearly toll on roads, buildings, and other structures at an estimated \$85 million, according to the AP, hobbling the country's path toward economic progress.

When storms flatten homes and cut electricity for days, the [health](#) and economic toll falls hardest on those with the fewest resources to bounce back. That [threatens public safety](#) and stability across the region.

### **What's being done about worsening cyclone seasons?**

Ahead of the storm, the U.N. deployed \$3 million in emergency aid to help Madagascar prepare. International aid groups are providing shelter, clean water, and medical support.

Donate to relief organizations working in Madagascar, such as the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or UNICEF. Support groups that are pushing for climate adaptation funding for island nations. Contact your elected officials and push for disaster preparedness programs that help countries like Madagascar build sturdier infrastructure and warning systems.

# [Family fights for change after diabetic son, 26, euthanized under MAID law | Foxnews.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #canada, #euthanasia, #murder, #suicide, #laws

Feb 17, 2026

Ontario family speaks out after son's controversial euthanasia under Canada's MAID laws, alleging system failed to protect vulnerable 26-year-old.

The grieving parents of a 26-year-old man are speaking out against Canada's medical assistance in dying (MAID) laws, arguing the system failed to protect their "vulnerable" son from being euthanized, despite a history of [mental illness](#).

Kiano Vafaeian was euthanized on Dec. 30, 2025, in British Columbia. His family says he was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at age 4 and began struggling with mental health after a car accident at 17.

His mother, Margaret Marsilla of Ontario, said his depression was often seasonal, yet he became "obsessed" with MAID after losing vision in one eye in 2022.

"He kept on emphasizing about how he could get approved," Marsilla told [Fox News Digital](#). "We never thought there would be a chance that any doctor would approve a 22 or 23-year-old at that time for MAID because of diabetes or blindness."

## [NY GOV HOCHUL TO SIGN BILL TO LEGALIZE PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE: 'WHO AM I TO DENY YOU?'](#)

[MAID was legalized in Canada](#) in June 2016. The law allows patients with "grievous and irremediable" medical conditions to request a lethal drug that is either physician or self-administered, to end their lives.

In 2022, after a Toronto doctor initially approved Vafaeian's request, the family launched a public pressure campaign on social media to voice their opposition. The outcry led the doctor to withdraw approval. While Vafaeian was initially angry, his family said he showed signs of improvement over the following year, even moving in with them in 2024.

"He tried his best when he was in one of those good highs of life," Marsilla said. "Then winter, fall started coming around, he started changing and then everything that we had worked for from spring and summertime just disappeared... he would start talking about MAID again."

The family said Vafaeian was rejected by multiple doctors in Ontario before he sought out Dr. Ellen Wiebe, a prominent MAID provider, in British Columbia. Marsilla believes Wiebe "coached" her son on what to say to meet the criteria for "Track 2" patients — those whose natural deaths are not reasonably imminent.

### **PRITZKER APPROVES PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE LAW FOR TERMINALLY ILL PATIENTS DESPITE CATHOLIC OPPOSITION**

"We believe that she was coaching him... on how to deteriorate his body and what she can possibly approve him for and what she can get away with approving him for," Marsilla said. "Because if he had spoken back in 2024, and he was a good candidate for approving MAID, she would have done it right away, but she didn't."

Vafaeian's parents say they were not notified of the approval and only learned of his death days after it occurred. They noted his medical records did not substantiate the "severe peripheral neuropathy" listed on his death certificate as a qualifying factor.

"This whole process came to us as a shock," said Joseph Caprara, Vafaeian's stepfather.

In 2021, eligibility for MAID was expanded to include applicants with "grievous and irremediable conditions" whose deaths are not reasonably foreseeable. The family is now advocating for the repeal of this "Track 2" provision and the passage of Bill C-218, a legislative effort to restrict MAID for patients whose underlying issue is solely mental illness.

### **POPE LEO XIV SAYS HE'S 'VERY DISAPPOINTED' AFTER ILLINOIS APPROVES ASSISTED SUICIDE LAW**

"Realistically, safeguards for patients would be reaching out to their family members, giving them a whole bunch of different treatment options," Marsilla said. Instead, she claims the current system allows doctors to approve and euthanize patients within 90 days on Track 2.

"How is that safe for patients?" she asked.

Marsilla has shared her son's story on social media, describing the situation as "disgusting on every level."

On Facebook, she wrote, "No parent should ever have to bury their child because a system—and a doctor—chose death over care, help, or love."

Caprara said their family hopes sharing their story will expose the risks these laws pose to the "vulnerable and disabled" and give states and other countries pause before implementing similar legislation.

"We don't want to see any other family member suffer, or any country introduce a [piece of legislation](#) that kills their disabled or vulnerable without appropriate proper treatment plans that could save their lives," he said.

In a statement to Fox News Digital, Dr. Wiebe said, "Like my colleagues, every patient I approve for Track 2 has unbearable suffering from a grievous and irremediable medical condition (not psychiatric) with an advanced state of decline in capability and consents to MAID fully informed about treatments to reduce the suffering."

New York Governor Kathy Hochul signed an assisted suicide bill into law on Monday, making New York the 13th state, plus the District of Columbia, to legalize allowing physicians to aid terminally ill adults in dying by suicide. The law will go into effect in six months.

# [Millions left hungry as deadly conditions lead to beginning of mass animal die-off: 'Visible signs of malnutrition and wasting' | Yahoo! News.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #famine, #somalia, #hunger, #drought

Feb 15, 2026

"The situation is desperate, but we fear the worst is yet to come."

The numbers are staggering. More than 3 million people in Somalia have left their homes following a devastating drought that has hit the country's rural regions. It is estimated that almost 6 million people in the East African country need aid. Of those in need of help, 1.85 million are children.

The impacts of four straight failed rainy seasons have destroyed crops and killed livestock across large portions of Africa. While the worst conditions have peaked in Somalia, the bordering countries of Ethiopia and Kenya are also suffering. More than 2 million people in Kenya alone are facing hunger amid the ongoing drought that has left livestock emaciated in livestock-rearing communities.

Islamic Relief is a global humanitarian organization founded in 1984 in the U.K. that delivers aid to those in need across more than 40 countries, regardless of faith, ethnicity, or background. A recent [report](#) from the organization titled "Urgent action needed to save lives as severe drought worsens across the Horn of Africa" warns that children who have sought help in camps are "showing visible signs of malnutrition and wasting," [per](#) the Associated Press.

The large loss of livestock brings back memories of another, even more devastating drought that struck some of the same countries now being affected. During the drought that lasted from 2020 to 2023, millions of animals perished in portions of Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia.

The United Nations World Food Programme reported that [nearly 10 million livestock died](#) during that prolonged drought. Livestock accounts for 45% of Somalia's GDP.

"Climate change is driving increasingly frequent extreme weather events in the Horn of Africa — this latest drought comes as the region is still recovering from its worst drought in 70 years due to successive failed rains between 2021 and 2023, which was followed by deadly floods," according to the Islamic Relief report. "Somalia, Ethiopia, and Kenya produce only around 0.1% of global carbon emissions, yet people there are paying the highest price of the global climate crisis."

The conditions with the current drought are dire, and the outlook remains bleak. "The situation is desperate, but we fear the worst is yet to come," said Aliow Mohamed, Islamic Relief's Country Director in Somalia. "Our teams across Somalia are already seeing livestock deaths, water scarcity, and rising malnutrition."

"Masses of people are fleeing rural areas for camps where they hope to get some aid, but there is not enough aid for everyone," Mohamed added. "In many places, local communities are providing new arrivals with food and water, even though they have barely enough for themselves. The next few months are critical — we must act now to stop this drought turning into famine."

Kenya and other East African countries are highly exposed to several forms of extreme weather, which are exacerbated by our warming world. "Kenya's vulnerability to climate change is worsened by frequent and intense droughts, storms, floods, heat waves, rising sea levels, melting glaciers, and warming oceans, leading to direct devastation of biotic systems and natural habitats, which have severe socioeconomic impacts," a report from the National Council for Population and Development [concluded](#).

Scientists warn that Kenya's second-largest city, Mombasa, is facing a convergence of climate hazards that could overwhelm low-lying neighborhoods and key transport routes. Flooding, mangrove loss, and saltwater contamination threaten lives, livelihoods, and the backbone of Kenya's coastal economy.

# [Fewer than a third of churchgoers read the Bible daily: Lifeway | Christianpost.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #bible, #church, #survey, #apostasy

Feb 13, 2026

Fewer than one in three Protestants who attend church services at least once a month read the Bible on a daily basis, according to a recent report.

Fewer than one in three Protestants who attend church services at least once a month read the Bible on a daily basis, according to a recent report from Lifeway Research.

A [report](#) published Tuesday, based on The Lifeway Research State of Discipleship study, found that 31% of Protestant churchgoers read the Bible every day, while 30% do so a few times a week.

Additionally, 14% of respondents said they read the Bible once a week, 11% said they engage in it a few times a month, 5% said they only read it once a month, while 9% said they “rarely or never” do so.

According to Lifeway, the Bible reading rates have gone up compared to past years. For example, in 2007, only 16% of respondents said they read the Bible daily, while in 2012, it was 19% of respondents.

Scott McConnell, executive director of Lifeway Research, was quoted in the report as noting that the number of daily Bible readers has remained fairly steady since 2019.

“The portion of churchgoers reading the Bible a few times a week or more on their own has leveled off recently after rising dramatically since 2007, but the churchgoer population was also changing during this period,” stated McConnell.

“A lower percentage of Americans attend a Protestant church once a month today than when this series of studies began. Clearly, the remnant of Americans attending church each month are more willing to regularly read the Bible on their own than when churches were more populated.”

Data for the report came from an online survey of 2,130 Protestant churchgoers conducted March 19-26, 2025, with a margin of error of plus or minus 2.21% at the 95% confidence level.

The report also found that 74% of Protestant churchgoers said “the Bible has authority over every area of their lives,” while 15% of respondents were unsure and 11% disagreed.

Additionally, 72% of respondents found themselves “thinking about biblical truths throughout the day,” while 19% were not sure, and 10% of respondents disagreed.

In [a 2019 report](#), Lifeway Research found that 32% of regular churchgoers read their Bible on a daily basis, while 27% said that they read Scripture a few times a week, and 12% said they rarely to never read the Bible.

Regarding the 2019 study, Dirk Smith, vice president of the Bible distribution ministry Eastern European Mission, said in an op-ed published by [The Christian Post](#) last year that he believed the numbers were because of “the culture we’ve built around distraction, quick fixes and shallow spirituality.”

“We take the Bible for granted and allow ourselves to ‘unwind’ by doom scrolling — only to increase anxiety and depression levels,” he added. “The consequences are undeniable. Weak churches, weary Christians and a restless society searching for peace in all the wrong places.”

“The growing churches in America right now aren’t the ones with the flashiest worship teams or trendiest branding. They’re the ones that open the Bible and teach it line by line, verse by verse, book by book.”

# [Hundreds of Evangelicals share Gospel at Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics | Christian Post.com](#)

#bibleprophecy, #gospel, #evangelicals, #olympics, #milano cortina

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Southern Baptists are sharing the gospel at the Winter Olympic Games, officially known as Milano Cortina 2026, currently underway in Italy.

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The 25th global event, running from Feb. 6 to Feb. 22, has brought together about 2,900 athletes from 92 nations and is the most geographically widespread Winter Olympics in history, using 15 venues across Northern Italy and drawing an estimated 2 million spectators. Hundreds of Southern Baptists have joined the crowds alongside International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries to boldly proclaim Christ throughout the host regions, the IMB [announced](#).

IMB teams, local partners, and volunteers are focusing much of their energy on Milan, a city prominently Roman Catholic by heritage and known for iconic landmarks such as the Duomo di Milano and Leonardo da Vinci's "The Last Supper," which is housed in the refectory of the Convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie.

Mission teams are continuing the evangelistic "Who Am I?" apologetics campaign that originated at the 2024 Paris Olympics. The strategy involves engaging residents and spectators with conversation-starter cards featuring questions about identity, meaning and purpose, ultimately leading them to discover the answer in Jesus. Bibles are being distributed alongside John's Gospel booklets at hospitality points around Milan and through the beloved Olympic pastime of pin trading.

"In Italy, you strive to live the good life," IMB missionary Charlie Worthy said. He is helping to coordinate outreach efforts during the Winter Games. "If you've got a good friend, a good house and a good income, then what more do you need?"

Worthy expressed his excitement at the "large-scale opportunity to impact global lostness." He asked for prayers for the teams and volunteers involved in sharing the Gospel with boldness, noting his hope for long-term outreach in Italy after the Games conclude.

"I think what most people don't realize is that Italy is the third-oldest Southern Baptist mission field," he told IMB. "We've had missionaries longer here than just about anywhere else in the entire world."

Meanwhile, the Salt Lake City-based worship collective The Rock Music is also in Northern Italy for a high-profile mission during the Winter Olympics, in partnership with Youth With A Mission (YWAM) and local Italian congregations.

The group is leveraging the global stage to perform at official Olympic Fan Zones and local venues across Milan and Arco. Their outreach strategy combines large-scale concerts with intimate coffee-house sets, aimed at using music to facilitate Gospel conversations during the 17-day event.

“Our heart is to share the Gospel message to all nations, and the nations are coming to Italy, so we felt impressed to go as well,” The Rock Music founder and worship leader Steele Crosswhite told the Gospel Music Association.

“Music is a little like smiling—even if you don’t speak the language, you can still communicate through song in a meaningful way. And because we are partnering with local ministries, we will be joined by fellow believers serving as translators to help provide opportunities for conversation. We can’t wait to be part of the excitement of the Winter Olympics while offering hope to a field ripe for harvest.”