



SIGNS OF THE TIMES

News Articles for Episode 309

[Levites tune up for the Third Temple - Israel365 News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #levites, #third temple

Apr 26, 2024

Levites tune up for the Third Temple

On Thursday, the third intermediary day of Passover, Levites gathered in Jerusalem to reenact their musical role in the Temple. A group of about two dozen Levites gathered in the Old City to practice their singing while wearing garments designed for use by the Temple musicians in the Third Temple.

Singing led to dancing, celebrating the joy of the Biblical feast.

The Levites also blew [silver trumpets](#) that had been prepared for use in the Third Temple.

Traditionally, [Temple musicians](#) were selected from the tribe of Levi. The Zohar explains that the Levites were selected to sing in the Temple because the name Levi means to accompany, and their music would cause others to come close to God. In the days that the Temples stood in Jerusalem, the [Levites sang on the 15 steps](#)—corresponding to the [15 Songs of Ascent](#) in Psalms 15 —that led from the Ezrat Nashim (“Court of Women”) to the Ezrat Yisrael (“Court of Israelites”). The Mishna states that there were never less than 12 Levites standing on the platform, but their number could be increased indefinitely. While ordinarily, no minor was permitted to enter the Azarah (“Courtyard”) to take part in the service, the [young Levites](#) were permitted to join in the singing to “add sweetness to the sound” but were not permitted to stand on the same platform with the adult Levites (Talmud Erchin 2:6).

In the Bible, the tribe of Levi included Moses and Aaron. Kohanim (priests) are descendants of Aaron and his descendants became a subset of the tribe of Levi. The other members of the tribe were chosen by God to forfeit their portions of land in Israel and to serve in the Temple. The Levites performed various functions in the Temple including guarding and serving all the musical needs.

Jewish communities are scrupulous about perpetuating the status of the Levites, which is passed from father to son. Only Jewish men whose fathers were Levites are considered eligible. Comprising about 4% of the total Jewish population, they are recognized for conspicuous honors in religious services and their status as Levites is inscribed on their gravestones.

The Gaon of Vilna (an 18th-century Torah sage) said that the Temple music would be the last secret to be revealed before the Messiah.

[IDF hits 40 Hezbollah sites; Gallant says group's south Lebanon command decimated | The Times of Israel](#)

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #hezbollah, #lebanon

Apr 24, 2024

Fighter jets, artillery target weapon depots, assets in Ayta ash-Shab amid incessant attacks, including missile fire on Avivim

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant on Wednesday claimed that the military had killed half of Hezbollah's commanders in southern Lebanon, as the Israel Defense Forces carried out a large wave of strikes against dozens of sites belonging to the terror group.

"Half of the Hezbollah commanders in south Lebanon have been eliminated... and the other half hide and abandon south Lebanon to IDF operations," Gallant said, after holding an assessment at the Northern Command headquarters in Safed with the chief of the command, Maj. Gen. Ori Gordin, and other top officers.

He said Israel's main goal in the north was to return tens of thousands of Israelis displaced by Hezbollah's daily attacks to their homes.

"We are dealing with a number of alternatives in order to establish this matter, and the coming period will be decisive in this regard," Gallant said.

As the defense minister toured the Northern Command, the IDF said some 40 Hezbollah targets in the town of Ayta ash-Shab were hit within just several minutes by fighter jets and artillery shelling.

The wave of strikes came hours after the terror group fired anti-tank missiles at a community in northern Israel.

The military said the targets included weapon depots and other assets belonging to Hezbollah, and charged that Ayta ash-Shab was used by the group for "terror" and that it places dozens of its sites in the area.

In a statement, the IDF said the strikes were "part of the effort to destroy the organization's infrastructure in the border area," and not a response to any specific attack.

Ahead of the strikes, the military issued an unusual statement announcing that it had begun to attack Hezbollah targets in south Lebanon. Amid the ongoing war, the military has generally announced strikes in Lebanon only after they have been

completed. The announcement indicated that the strikes were on a much larger scale than usual.

Hours before the wave of strikes, Hezbollah fired several anti-tank guided missiles at the northern community of Avivim, striking two homes and causing a fire.

The Merom HaGalil Regional Council, which has jurisdiction over Avivim, said the missiles caused no injuries.

Hezbollah claimed the attack in a statement, saying it “targeted a building in Avivim in which ‘enemy soldiers’ were present.”

The missile attack on Avivim came after a wave of overnight Israeli Air Force strikes against Hezbollah positions in Lebanon, following repeated attacks by the Iran-backed terror group on northern Israel.

[rubih67@](https://twitter.com/rubih67) תיעוד פגיעת טילי הג"ט באביבים
(צילום: מועצה אזורית מרום הגליל) pic.twitter.com/lzglkKF7IJ

— כאן חדשות (@kann_news) [April 24, 2024](https://www.facebook.com/kann.news)

The overnight strikes targeted a rocket launcher in the town of Tayr Harfa after it was used in an attack on the northern community of Shomera on Tuesday night, the IDF said.

The IDF said additional targets included Hezbollah infrastructure in Markaba, a building in Ayta ash-Shab and an observation post in Marwahin.

Troops also shelled areas near Chihine and Kfarchouba with artillery to “remove threats,” the military added.

Since October 8, Hezbollah-led forces have attacked Israeli communities and military posts along the border on a near-daily basis, with the group saying it is doing so to support Gaza amid the war there.

So far, the skirmishes on the border have resulted in eight civilian deaths on the Israeli side, as well as the deaths of 11 IDF soldiers and reservists. There have also been several attacks from Syria, without any injuries.

Hezbollah has named 287 members who have been killed by Israel during the ongoing skirmishes, mostly in Lebanon, but some also in Syria. In Lebanon, another 54 operatives from other terror groups, a Lebanese soldier and at least 60 civilians, three of whom were journalists, have been killed.

Israel has threatened to go to war to force Hezbollah away from the border if it does not retreat and continues to threaten northern communities, from where some 70,000 people were evacuated to avoid the fighting.

[Netanyahu tells Blinken he will not agree to end war on Hamas as part of hostage deal | The Times of Israel](#)

#bibleprophecy, #israel, #hamas, #war

May 1, 2024

PM tells visiting US secretary that potential truce won't forestall Rafah operation; Blinken reiterates US opposition to incursion, says Hamas 'standing in the way of a ceasefire'

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Wednesday that he would not accept an end to the war in Gaza as part of a potential hostage deal, an Israeli official told The Times of Israel.

"He told Blinken that we are interested in reaching a deal, and determined to topple Hamas," said the official.

Israel conveyed its latest offer to Hamas through Egyptian mediators late last week, and is expecting a response Wednesday evening, an Israeli official told The Times of Israel.

Netanyahu also told Blinken during their meeting in Jerusalem that a hostage deal with Hamas does not mean an invasion of Rafah would be avoided, the Prime Minister's Office told The Times of Israel.

"The Rafah operation does not depend on anything," said the PMO. "Prime Minister Netanyahu made this clear to Secretary Blinken."

Meanwhile, Blinken "reiterated the United States' clear position on Rafah," said State Department Spokesman Matthew Miller.

The US readout did not say exactly what that position is, but the Biden administration has been firm in its opposition to a Rafah operation without a credible plan to evacuate civilians, even calling a move into the southern Gaza city a "red line."

The US readout said that Blinken "emphasized that it is Hamas that is standing in the way of a ceasefire."

In his meeting with President Isaac Herzog in Jerusalem earlier in the day, Blinken expressed similar sentiments, placing the blame squarely on Hamas for the failure to reach a hostage deal since November.

The Gaza terror organization is “the only reason that that wouldn’t be achieved,” said the top US diplomat, who is in Israel for the seventh time since the massive Hamas attack on October 7.

“No delays, no excuses,” said Blinken. “The time is now.”

A report from the Lebanese news outlet al-Akhbar indicated that Israel’s offer would see at least 33 hostages released in the first phase, followed by later stages that would establish a sustainable calm and possible full withdrawal of IDF troops.

The first stage of the deal, to last 40 days, reportedly involves a gradual withdrawal of Israeli troops from parts of the Strip in order to allow the movement of humanitarian aid and the return of civilians to their homes.

The Prime Minister’s Office declined to comment on the report.

Senior Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri said that Blinken’s comments blaming the terror group for a failure to reach a deal were an attempt to put pressure on it and acquit Israel.

Abu Zuhri also told Reuters that the group was still studying the recent truce offer.

In a change of tune from recent criticism of Israeli policies, Blinken also blamed Hamas for the suffering of Gazan civilians: “We also have to be focused on people in Gaza who are suffering in this crossfire of Hamas’s making, and so focused on getting them the assistance they need — the food, medicine, the water, the shelter.”

In a public statement ahead of their meeting, Herzog blasted the potential issuing of arrest warrants against Israeli leaders by the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

“Our enemies and other elements are trying to undermine the entire process by using international legal forums that were established in order to have a world order that pursues peace, and pursues the values and norms that we all believe in in the modern world,” said Herzog. “Especially the efforts done at the International Criminal Court.”

“Israel has a very strong legal system, very strong adjudication and law enforcement system, and it has pursued legal steps from the highest authorities in this land [against] any other citizen,” said Herzog.

Blinken arrived in Israel on Tuesday evening following visits to Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

The top US diplomat was set to meet Defense Minister Yoav Gallant at the Kerem Shalom Crossing and National Security Adviser Tzachi Hanegbi at Ashdod Port in the afternoon to examine humanitarian aid flowing through to Gaza.

Washington has intensified its pressure on Hamas to reach a deal — a message pushed by Blinken during his tour.

“Now it’s on Hamas,” Blinken told reporters in Jordan. “No more delays, no more excuses... We want to see in the coming days this agreement coming together.”

A truce is “the most effective way to relieve the suffering” of civilians in the besieged Gaza Strip, he told reporters near Amman.

Blinken saw off a first Jordanian truck convoy of aid heading to Gaza through the Erez Crossing reopened by Israel, and urged a redoubling of the aid efforts.

“It is real and important progress, but more still needs to be done,” he said.

Israel has drastically increased humanitarian aid to Gaza since the deadly April 1 strike on World Central Kitchen aid workers, but the situation remains dire. The vast majority of residents have fled their homes and the United Nations has warned of looming famine.

A US-built floating pier on Gaza’s coast is expected to be completed later this week, said Cyprus, to receive aid arriving through a “maritime corridor” via the eastern Mediterranean nation.

Blinken said the pier would “significantly increase the assistance” but was not “a substitute” for greater overland access.

It is believed that 129 hostages abducted by Hamas on October 7 remain in Gaza — not all of them alive — after 105 civilians were released from Hamas captivity during a weeklong truce in late November, and four hostages were released prior to that.

Three hostages have been rescued by troops alive, and the bodies of 12 hostages have also been recovered, including three mistakenly killed by the military.

The Israel Defense Forces has confirmed the deaths of 34 of those still held by Hamas, citing new intelligence and findings obtained by troops operating in Gaza.

One more person has been listed as missing since October 7, and their fate is still unknown.

[At least 5 EU countries to recognize Palestinian state by end of May - Israel365 News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #european union, #palestinian state

Apr 30, 2024

At least five European Union countries will unilaterally recognize a Palestinian state by the end of May, the E.U.'s top diplomat revealed on Monday.

Spain, Ireland, Belgium, Slovenia and Malta are expected to make the move, Josep Borrell said on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum special meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, *Reuters* reported.

Four of the five countries—Spain, Ireland, Slovenia and Malta—[announced](#) in March their intentions to jointly work towards recognizing a Palestinian state. Earlier in April, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said that he expects Madrid to recognize a Palestinian state by July and that there would soon be a “critical mass” in Brussels for several other member states to adopt this position.

“These days, every statement about the possibility that European countries will recognize a Palestinian state is a prize for Hamas terrorists, who carried out the largest massacre of Jews since the Holocaust,” Israeli Foreign Minister Spokesperson Oren Marmorstein tweeted on Monday.

“Only direct negotiations between the parties will lead to peace,” he continued.

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Only direct negotiations between the parties will lead to peace.

The...

— Oren Marmorstein (@OrenMarmorstein) [April 29, 2024](#)

“The world including Europe should currently focus solely on the immediate release of the 133 women and men taken hostage and on the destruction of the Hamas terror organization. Anyone promoting a different agenda at this time is playing into the hands of Hamas and is hindering efforts to reach a deal on releasing the hostages and humanitarian relief,” he said.

The official policy position of the United States is that Palestinian statehood can only be achieved through direct bilateral negotiations between Jerusalem and Ramallah. [Polling](#) shows that a majority of the Israeli public remains opposed to the establishment of a Palestinian state.

However, the European Union appears to be determined to push unilateral recognition of a Palestinian state, which 140 out of 193 United Nations member states have recognized since 1988.

“If we want to move this two-state solution forward it will not happen from the parties. I do not believe that Israel is ready to negotiate at this point, and I do not think that the U.S. is ready to take the necessary leadership,” Norwegian Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide said at the end of a meeting between European and Arab officials on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum on Monday, of which Norway was one of the organizers.

“So I think an Arab-European leadership is the best we can hope for.”

[Antisemitic riot at Columbia University escalates as rebels take over Hamilton Hall](#) [| Fox News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #anti-semitism, #columbia university, #lawlessness

Apr 30, 2024

The students are demanding that Columbia divest its financial support of Israel, become more transparent and provide blanket amnesty to the protesters

Hours after Columbia University began suspending students who did not abandon their [anti-Israel encampment](#) in the heart of campus, the agitators dialed up their demonstration by taking over an academic building.

Early Tuesday morning, hundreds of anti-Israel protesters at Columbia's Manhattan campus took over Hamilton Hall, an academic building used by the dean and other senior offices. The unruly group gained access shortly before 1 a.m. and then began "moving metal gates to barricade the doors, blocking entrances with wooden tables and chairs, and zip-tying doors shut," according to the student newspaper Columbia Spectator.

Other footage showed the [agitators in New York](#) smashing windows, unfurling a Palestinian flag over a window and chanting: "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free" and "Palestine will live forever." Outside the facility, the anti-Israel rebels, many of whom wore masks, locked arms in front of Hamilton Hall to form a human barricade.

The students are demanding three things from the university: divest their financial support of Israel, become more transparent with the university's investments and provide blanket amnesty to students who have taken part in the disruptive, weeks-long demonstration.

[CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY REVEALS 'TRUE COST' OF ANTI-ISRAEL MOB THAT TOOK OVER ACADEMIC BUILDINGS](#)

The mutiny comes after the university set a deadline of 2 p.m. on Monday for students to gather their belongings and leave their encampment of around 120 tents or face suspension.

The university confirmed that it began handing out suspensions with the aid of local and state law enforcement officers on Monday night for students who failed to leave.

During the unrest, New York Police Department officers arrived at the campus but did not enter it, according to the Columbia Spectator. The officers remained at the scene, outside of campus, telling the publication they would only enter if they "hear that someone's gotten hurt."

[TRUMP SAYS 4 WORDS ABOUT ANTI-ISRAEL PROTESTS ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES AS ARRESTS SKYROCKET](#)

At least three facilities workers were inside the academic building when the anti-Israel agitators stormed in, the student newspaper reported. The workers were subsequently allowed to leave at around 12:40 a.m., with one reportedly yelling "they held me hostage" as he left the building.

Members of the mob also allegedly covered the cameras inside the facility.

The group placed a banner over Hamilton Hall renaming it "Hind's Hall," after Hind Rajab, a 6-year-old who died in Gaza during Israel's war with Hamas.

Tuesday morning's wild unfolding came nearly two weeks after the protesters initially formed their encampment on April 18.

That same day, University President Minouche Shafik called law enforcement to sweep the "Gaza Solidarity Encampment" and arrest the agitators, which resulted in more than 100 students being arrested.

[VIRGINIA TECH POLICE PHYSICALLY CARRY AWAY ANTI-ISRAEL AGITATORS AMID EFFORT TO RESTORE PEACE ON CAMPUS](#)

After the agitators returned to their encampment and the movement showed some resilience, the university mostly allowed the [antisemitic group](#) to remain.

Officials, including Shafik, continued negotiations with organizers, seeking a peaceful resolution.

After negotiations with agitators failed to reach a deal on Monday, Shafik again gave officers the go ahead to begin removing the students, who face suspension.

[Drone video shows Sulphur, Oklahoma, nearly unrecognizable after direct hit from tornado \(msn.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #tornadoes. #weather, #destruction

4/28/24

SULPHUR, Okla. – A downtown stretch of an [Oklahoma](#) community was wiped out during a [tornado outbreak on Saturday night](#).

Widespread damage and at least two deaths have been reported after 16 reports of [tornadoes](#) across Oklahoma on Saturday. During the [severe weather](#) outbreak, the National Weather Service in [Norman](#), Oklahoma, issued 59 [Tornado Warnings](#) on Saturday, the most issued in a signal day for the NWS office.

Survey teams with the NWS in Norman have found at least EF-3 damage in Sulphur and Marietta, Oklahoma, [based on the Enhanced Fujita Scale](#). Further investigation is needed to determine if the preliminary rating will go higher or not.

Gov. Kevin Stitt said at least one person died in Sulphur where a tornado caused widespread damage overnight.

Drone video and images from the ground show parts of West Muskogee Avenue in [Sulphur](#) are unrecognizable after a tornado tore through the area with local businesses, including restaurants, art boutiques and gift shops.

"Definitely the most damage since I've been governor that I've seen," Stitt said during a news conference Sunday in Sulphur. "I've seen a lot of damage. I've been around the state for, this is my sixth year, but what I saw in downtown Sulphur is unbelievable."

The morning after the storm, the owners of the [Mix Mercantile](#), a boutique selling clothing, home goods and more, found their business in a state of [disaster](#). Owner Christy Morris shared the images below of what she found in the daylight.

Images from Google Street Maps taken before Saturday show what the shopping and dining area looked like before the tornado tore the buildings apart.

From visuals from right after the tornado in the darkness, it's hard to distinguish what used to be a building that housed a shop or another local business.

After a weekend of severe weather outbreaks from [Iowa](#) to [Texas](#), National Weather Service storm damage survey teams continue to assess the destruction in [Nebraska](#), [Iowa](#), [Missouri](#), [Kansas](#) and Oklahoma.

In Oklahoma, authorities have confirmed at least [four deaths during the severe weather](#).

Numerous towns in Oklahoma, including Sulphur, [Marietta](#), [Ardmore](#), Holdenville, Mills Creek and Dickson, suffered significant damage from the severe weather outbreak.

Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Sitt declared a state of emergency for 12 counties impacted by severe weather.

[Pope Francis: Climate Change Deniers Are ‘Stupid’ \(breitbart.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #pope, #climate change, #deniers

Apr 26, 2024

ROME — Pope Francis told CBS News this week that climate change deniers are “stupid” even in the face of compelling evidence of a climate emergency.

“Some people are stupid (*necios*), and stupid even if you show them research, they don’t believe it,” the pontiff [told](#) CBS Evening News anchor Norah O’Donnell when asked what he would say to the deniers of climate change.

“Why? Because they don’t understand the situation, or because of their interests, but climate change exists,” the 87-year-old pope asserted.

Pope Francis had never before sat down for an extensive interview, one-on-one, with a U.S. television network during the course of his 11-year pontificate.

CBS aired portions of the interview Wednesday night on the Evening News and has scheduled a longer version to air May 20 on “60 Minutes,” followed by an hourlong prime time special.

During the conversation, Francis was also asked what he thinks about those who describe the violence in Gaza as a “genocide.” The pontiff repeated the term “genocide” and then noted that he calls the Catholic parish in Gaza every evening at around 7:00pm Rome time for an update.

Pope Francis once again appealed for a concerted international effort to battle climate change Monday, insisting that no one is exempt from this task. <https://t.co/sEkJne8tzj>

— *Breitbart News (@BreitbartNews) [January 10, 2022](#)*

“There are about 600 people there, and they tell me what’s going on,” he said. “It’s very hard; it’s very hard.”

“Food goes in, but they have to fight for it,” he said. “It’s very hard.”

Pope Francis has been a vocal enthusiast for the war on climate change, [calling](#) global warming “one of the most serious and worrying phenomena of our time” and [urging](#) “drastic measures” to combat climate change.

“Now is the time to abandon our dependence on fossil fuels and move, quickly and decisively, towards forms of clean energy and a sustainable and circular economy,” he exhorted in September 2019. “Let us also learn to listen to indigenous peoples, whose age-old wisdom can teach us how to live in a better relationship with the environment.”

“While the situation is not good and the planet is suffering, the window of opportunity is still open,” he warned. “We are still in time. Let us not let it close.”

He has [expressed](#) his opinion that any skepticism regarding an alleged “climate emergency” is “perverse.”

The pope has also singled out the United States as particularly to blame for the “climate emergency,” despite the fact that it is one of the countries with the [cleanest](#) air in the world.

👁️ 👁️ 👁️ <https://t.co/5XlRQdofmW>

— *Breitbart News (@BreitbartNews)* [February 25, 2024](#)

“If we consider that emissions per individual in the United States are about two times greater than those of individuals living in China, and about seven times greater than the average of the poorest countries, we can state that a broad change in the irresponsible lifestyle connected with the Western model would have a significant long-term impact,” he stated last October.

Among the “fools” denounced by the pope for their “perverse” skepticism of the climate crisis are a group of over 1,600 prominent scientists, including two Nobel Prize winners, who issued the “World Climate [Declaration](#)” last August, refuting the existence of a so-called “climate emergency.”

Among other things, the Declaration [asserted](#) that climate models have proven inadequate for predicting global warming, that carbon dioxide (CO₂) is not a pollutant, and that climate change has not increased natural disasters.

The world has warmed “significantly less than predicted by IPCC on the basis of modeled anthropogenic forcing,” the text states, and the gap between the real world and the modeled world “tells us that we are far from understanding climate change.”

“There is no statistical evidence that global warming is intensifying hurricanes, floods, droughts and suchlike natural disasters, or making them more frequent,” the document declared. “However, there is ample evidence that CO₂-mitigation measures are as damaging as they are costly.”

“There is no climate emergency,” it concluded. “Therefore, there is no cause for panic and alarm.”

“We strongly oppose the harmful and unrealistic net-zero CO₂ policy proposed for 2050. Go for adaptation instead of mitigation; adaptation works whatever the causes are,” it added.

[UMC repeals decades-old ban on ordaining LGBT clergy | Church & Ministries News \(christianpost.com\)](#)

#bibleprophecy, #united methodists, #church, #apostasy

May 1, 2024

The United Methodist General Conference has voted to remove a decades-old ban on ordaining pastors in romantic same-sex relationships after thousands of conservative congregations left the denomination in recent years.

At the UMC General Conference Wednesday, delegates approved without debate a measure removing the language from the Book of Discipline as part of a broader consent calendar, passing it by a final tally of 692 to 51.

Since 1984, the UMC Book of Discipline has prohibited the ordination of "self-avowed practicing homosexuals," with many progressives in the mainline Protestant denomination openly refusing to enforce or follow the restriction.

Applause from General Conference attendees was heard after the vote, with retired Bishop Hope Morgan Ward, a longtime proponent of removing the language, offering a prayer.

"You every day are great God, and every day You are working for good in the world. Stir up in us a desire to serve You, to live peacefully with our neighbors and all creation, and devote this day to your service," Ward said, as quoted by [UM News](#).

Over the past several years, the UMC has experienced intense debate over whether to change various rules in its Book of Discipline regarding LGBT individuals, which included barring the ordination of noncelibate homosexuals, prohibiting clergy from performing same-sex unions and barring church bodies from funding LGBT advocacy groups.

Although efforts to change the rules at the General Conference have failed in past years, many theological liberal leaders within the UMC have ignored the rules and allowed individuals who were in same-sex relationships to be ordained or even promoted to bishop.

For example, [Karen Oliveto](#) was elected bishop in 2016 by the UMC Western Jurisdiction despite being in a same-sex marriage. Although her election was deemed invalid by the United Methodist Judicial Council, the denomination's highest court, in 2017, she remains a bishop to the present day.

Oliveto [gave a sermon](#) at General Conference on Monday, asking those gathered if they were "willing to meet and serve Jesus in the queer clergy person who has been faithful to God's call even when the Church has tried to deny that call?"

At a 2019 special session of the General Conference, delegates approved a temporary measure that created a disaffiliation process for congregations that wanted to leave the UMC due to the debate over sexuality, with more than 7,500 churches doing so by the end of 2023.

On Tuesday, as part of another consent calendar, delegates [voted 667-54](#) to remove the Book of Discipline's ban on funding LGBT advocacy groups and mandatory punishments for clergy who blessed same-sex unions.

[Israeli Harvard astrophysicist: ‘The Messiah’ will come ‘from outer space’ | All Israel News](#)

#bibleprophecy, #messiah, #outer space, #ufo

Apr 30, 2024

As Jews celebrate Passover, Prof. Avi Loeb predicts ‘cosmic exodus’

Israeli Harvard astrophysicist Avi Loeb has predicted that the Messiah will be an extraterrestrial, superhuman entity. Last week, he suggested such a figure may lead us in a “cosmic exodus” beyond Earth.

Loeb is currently a professor of Science at Harvard University, was the chair of Harvard’s Department of Astronomy for nine years, and in 2020, [served](#) on the U.S. President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology.

He is publicly best known for his [argument](#) that the ‘Oumuamua interstellar object – the first known interstellar object to pass through our solar system – is likely an artifact of extraterrestrial technology. Loeb argues this on the basis of the scientific evidence of several anomalous features, such as its “peculiar acceleration” and its lack of cometary tail. These anomalies, he argues, are best explained by the theory that ‘Oumuamua is an artificial rather than naturally occurring object.

Loeb shared his view of the Messiah last year during a private dinner held by an organization called WORLD.MINDS, which [describes itself](#) as an “invitation-only community” of “1500 individuals who are making proven contributions in science, the arts, business and government.”

During the dinner, at which Loeb and former CIA director David Petraeus were the special guests, Loeb said: “My personal belief is that the Messiah will arrive, not necessarily from Brooklyn, as some Orthodox Jews believe, but rather from outer space,” according to a [report](#) from New York Magazine.

Loeb went on to say that this extraterrestrial Messiah would help end territorial conflict on earth, “because there is much more real estate available throughout the universe.”

Loeb expanded on his idea of an extraterrestrial Messiah in a recent [blog post](#). As this year’s Passover celebrations began, Loeb argued that humanity is heading towards a “cosmic exodus” led by an extraterrestrial, “superhuman entity.”

“The traditional Exodus liberated a few thousand people from slavery, created their sense of a community and established their bond with ‘God,’” Loeb wrote. “What would

the cosmic Exodus moment for humanity entail? My vision as an astrophysicist is straightforward: our cosmic exodus would mean the liberation of a space community of people from the confines of Earth's gravity."

Such a "cosmic exodus," he argues, would not ultimately be human-led.

"What would replace 'God' in this story? An advanced extraterrestrial civilization."

"Extraterrestrial technologies," Loeb wrote, "could result in apparent miracles on Earth of the character that triggered the traditional Exodus."

Drawing a parallel between Israel's 40 years in the wilderness and a potential journey to another solar system, Loeb argued that such a journey could "allow a new space community to free itself from the terrestrial mindset," just as in the desert the Israelites acquired "a new mindset, free of slavery and worships [sic] that characterized their mentality in Egypt."

"Who would serve as Moses for the new space community?" Loeb wrote. "This baby may have been already born by now."

Loeb argues that, similar to the Bible's account of God's special revelation to Moses via the burning bush, extraterrestrial beings may be contacting humanity via UAP (the official U.S. government term for what are popularly called "UFOs").

"Moses was convinced to believe in a superhuman entity, 'God', after witnessing a burning bush that was never consumed. Would an Unidentified Anomalous Phenomenon (UAP) serve as the burning bush moment for our new Moses?"

Loeb concluded by arguing that we may soon be "saved" by an extraterrestrial "superhuman entity."

"All we need to do is open our cameras and telescopes, as well as our mind, to the possibility that we might be saved from our terrestrial miseries by a superhuman entity," he wrote.

"Our traditional religions celebrate the past. On this Passover holiday, we should all reflect about our future among the stars and hope that a message of peace and prosperity will be delivered to our mailbox soon in the form of an extraterrestrial technological package."

Loeb's work with the government and the scientific community on UAP research

Loeb is one of a growing number of prominent scientists and government officials who are now investing a significant amount of time and resources into investigating UAP.

Last March, Loeb co-authored a paper with Sean Kirkpatrick, then-director of the Department of Defense's All-Domain Anomaly Resolution Office (AARO).

AARO, which was established in 2022, [says](#) it is "leading the U.S. government's efforts to address Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena (UAP) using a rigorous scientific framework and a data-driven approach."

Loeb and Kirkpatrick's [paper](#) argued that UAP may be "extraterrestrial technological probes."

In addition to his work with the Pentagon's UAP-focused program, Loeb is involved with several other projects doing similar work outside of government.

Loeb sits on the [advisory board](#) of the Sol Foundation, a recently-established organization that held its [first conference](#) at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California this past November.

"The Sol Foundation is...establishing itself as a premier center for UAP research," its [website](#) states. "Under the direction of academic and government experts already professionally engaged in the study of UAP, the Foundation is assembling teams of noted specialists in the natural sciences, the social sciences, the humanities, and engineering, information science, and other technology-focused disciplines. Collectively, these teams will undertake a rigorous, methodical, and cutting-edge inquiry into UAP and their implications as well as help set the agenda for UAP Studies."

Loeb also founded Harvard's [Galileo Project](#), which aims "to bring the search for extraterrestrial technological signatures of Extraterrestrial Technological Civilizations (ETCs) from accidental or anecdotal observations and legends to the mainstream of transparent, validated and systematic scientific research."

Among those Loeb has [worked](#) with on the Galileo Project is Luis Elizondo, reportedly the former head of the Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program (AATIP).

Launched under the Defense Intelligence Agency, AATIP was a program that researched UAP as a potential threat to the U.S. government, operating from 2007-2012.

AATIP's existence was revealed publicly in the 2017 New York Times [article](#), "Glowing Auras and 'Black Money': The Pentagon's Mysterious UFO Program."

Speaking of his time in the program, Elizondo has publicly [stated](#) that "there were elements within the Department [of Defense] that rigorously opposed" AATIP's research because of their "theological perspective."

Specifically, at least one senior official **warned** Elizondo that “these things are demonic, and we should not be pursuing them.”