

# Tribulation Watch Newsletter



"And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book . . ." (Revelation 13:8).

Dear friend

July 2025

Two thousand years ago, Jesus prophesied that there would be distress of nations with "perplexity" just prior to His Second Coming and the end of the world (Luke 21:25). Jesus also told His disciples that there would be wars and rumors of wars before the end came. (Matthew 24:6)

There is no question that the end-time prophecies of Christ are coming to pass in this day in which we live. War breaking out between Israel and Iran has put the world on edge. Many Christians believe Jesus could return at any moment. Others believe the war between Israel and Iran is beginning of WWII, which will lead to the rise of the Antichrist and His One World Government. In this edition of *Tribulation Watch Newsletter* we try to make sense of it all!

God bless you!

Bro. Matt Tiemann

"Iran will deliver 'strong blow' against U.S. if it attacks"

-Ayatollah Ali Khamenei

**Did you know** the Gen Z generation (13-25 years old) is being turned into homosexuals by social platforms?

Social contagion sounds like a plague and, in many ways, it is. The concept helps explain the way behaviors, emotions, and ideas spread through social groups, much like a contagious virus. Today, social contagion plays a powerful role in the rise of people promoting and identifying with the LGBTQ agenda.

## Behavior Spreads Like Wildfire



The concept of social contagion has its roots in early research on crowd psychology. Studies revealed that individuals in large groups can influence each other, often leading to behaviors that differ from what they would do on their own. Ultimately, ideas and behavior are spread through imitation. Social contagion is involved in everything from widespread acceptance of fashion trends to the adoption of new behaviors. The latest example of this wildfire-type spread is in the increasing identification of individuals as LGBTQ+, a trend that has grown quickly, especially in younger generations.

## Gen Z Led into LGBTQ Identity

Gen Z (13-25 year olds) is the most digitally connected of any generation. Unfortunately, that makes them easy prey for LGBTQ "influencers" who want to shape their minds and influence their morals. At every level LGBTQ activists push the acceptance of deviant sexual behavior and the ideas of multiple gender orientations and gender fluidity. Children and teens who follow these influencers are encouraged to mimic the behaviors, attitudes, and emotions of pro-LGBTQ peers, celebrities, or online communities. The desire to fit in then drives them to **adjust their behavior to gain approval.**

Once they've taken the bait, influencers continue to target the younger group emotionally. They are instructed to not just accept deviant behavior, but to be proud of it and promote it to their friends and social groups.

Platforms like Instagram, TikTok and Twitter have created spaces for young people to explore and be influenced by those who promote these identities. And all of this is done away from the eyes of parents and guardians who could speak truth into lies they're being fed.

### **LGBTQ Identification Becomes "Popular"**

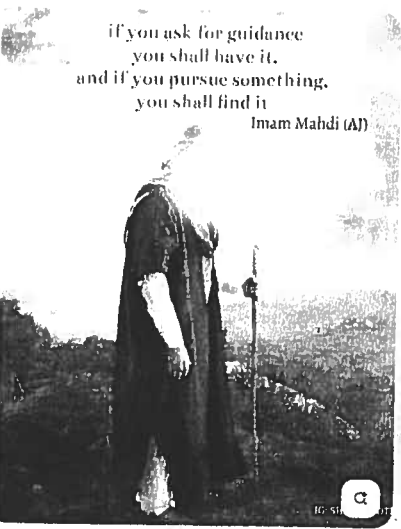
Recent Gallup surveys highlight a sharp increase in the number of people identifying as LGBTQ. In 2024, Gallup found that 9.3 % of US adults identified as LGBTQ, up from 5.5% in 2020, that's nearly one in ten adults! However, when looking at Gen Z, the statistics become even crazier. More than one in five Gen Z adults (23.15%) identify as LGBTQ, up from 5.5% in 2020.

In contrast, 14.2 % of millennials, 5.1% of Gen X, 3% of Baby Boomers, and 1.8% of the silent Generation identify as LGBTQ. The Gen Z shift is particularly significant among women. **Nearly 33%, or 1 in 3, identify as LGBTQ, compared to just 12% of Gen Z men.**

David Clossen, director of the center for Biblical Worldview, spoke about the drastic rise in identification. "I'm not surprised... Every cultural institution, whether it's the arts... [or] higher education is pushing this agenda. There's a social contagion that is fueling those numbers."

Because of the intense social promotion, more young people view the LGBTQ community as something popular they want to join, creating a cycle where LGBTQ identification becomes more normalized and widespread.

## ***Beware of the 12th Imam***



if you ask for guidance  
you shall have it,  
and if you pursue something,  
you shall find it  
Imam Mahdi (AJ)

*The following excerpt comes from the book *The Twelfth Imam* authored by Joel Rosenberg, 2011. "As the apocalyptic leaders of Iran call for the annihilation of Israel and the U.S., CIA operative David Shiraz is sent into Tehran with one objective: use all means necessary to disrupt Iran's nuclear weapon program, without leaving American fingerprints and without triggering a regional war. At extreme personal risk, Shirazi executes his plan.*

*A native Farsi speaker whose family escaped from Iran in 1979 he couldn't be better prepared for the mission. But none of his training has prepared Shirazi for what will happen next. An obscure religious cleric is suddenly hailed throughout the region as the Islamic Messiah known as the Mahdi or the Twelfth Imam. News of his miracles, healings, signs, and wonders spreads like wildfire as do rumors of a new and horrific war.*

*With the prophecy of the Twelfth Imam seemingly fulfilled, Iran's military prepares to strike Israel and bring about the end of days. Shirazi must take action to save his country and the world, but the clock is ticking.*

The Muslim doctrine of Mahdism revolves around an eschatological figure- the Mahdi, or "Rightly Guided One"- who vanquishes evil and ushers in Islamic rule during the end times. Both Sunnis and Shias believe in the Mahdi, though they have different versions of his exact nature and role. True leadership of the Muslim world belongs to the prophet Muhammad's bloodline, beginning with Ali (Muhammad's cousin and son-in-law through his marriage to the prophet's daughter, Fatima). According to Shia teaching, Ali was the first "rightly guided" imam, followed by his male descendants. Like Muhammad, all of them are seen as infallible and the true interpreters of Islamic law.

For the Twelvers of Iran, Muhammad ibn Hasan-better known as Muhammad al-Mahdi—is the twelfth and final imam (other Shias, such as the Fivers and Seveners, believe the Imamate ends with the fifth and seventh imams, respectively). Born in 868, al-Mahdi is believed to have gone into a state of occultation (hiding) in 874- meaning Allah miraculously caused him to "disappear." Still alive, the 1'155 year-old Muhammed al-Mahdi is patiently biding his time to return and usher in the takeover of the Muslim-and eventually entire world.

While such tradition may seem harmless enough, Mahdism poses a serious, though vastly overlooked, threat to international security, primarily because its current articulation in Iran requires its adherents to take “proactive” steps to help usher in the Mahdi—most notably by initiating an “apocalyptic” showdown with the “greater” and “lesser” Satan’s namely, America and Israel.

## **Israel Must Die**

No entity is more wedded to—or indoctrinated in—Mahdism than Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), which, as described by Iran’s 1979 Constitution, is an “ideological army,” mandated with a “ideological mission of jihad in Allah’s way.” As Hojatolislam Ali Saeedi, then representative of the Supreme Leader to the IRGC, said in a 2012 speech, “The IRGC is one of the tools for paving the way for the emergence of the Imam of the Age [Mahdi] in the field of a regional and international awakening.”

A middle East Institute paper from 2022, Titled “Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Cult of Mahdism,” elaborates on the growing importance of eliminating Israel in the context of Iranian Mahdism. The IRGC is increasingly understanding and communicating its official policy of eradicating Israel and Zionism through the doctrine of Mahdism. While the destruction of Israel has been the IRGC’S working objective since its inception, like other Islamist groups this hostility was borne out of viewing the Jewish state as an illegitimate, oppressive, and usurping entity for the West to achieve its supposed colonial goals across the Muslim world. *More recently, however, the existence of Israel is being viewed and understood as the ‘greatest barrier’ to the reappearance of the 12th Imam. According to the doctrine of Mahdism, part of preparing for the reappearance of the 12<sup>th</sup> Imam is removing all obstacles and barriers to his return.*

Against this backdrop, Iran’s hard-line clergy affiliated with the IRGC claim religious hadiths state that the ‘Jewish state will be destroyed before Maddi’s arrival.’ According to these accounts, which are legitimized through religious scripture, ‘Shia Muslims will be on the side of the war against Jews’ prior to the reappearance of Mahdi. As such, the collapse of the ‘Israeli regime and Zionists Jews’ at the behest of ‘Iran and the Resistance Axis’ will take place ‘prior to the emergence of Mahdi’...Indeed, the ideological belief that the eradication of Israel is a necessary step for the reappearance of the 12<sup>th</sup> Imam is increasingly being mainstreamed in the IRGC.

Khameni (current supreme leader) and his hard-line circle have sought to nurture a more radical IRGC generation by dedicating more time to ideological indoctrination of its members. The promotion system within the ranks of the IRGC also favors ideological conviction over technical expertise, ensuring the most zealous members rise up within the chain of command.... From the post-2009 periods onwards, the doctrine of Mahdism has become one of the main prisms through which the IRGC and affiliated hard-line clerics would understand the world around them and the IRGC’S actions, as well as communicate that understanding. In turn, there has been greater emphasis on viewing the IRGC as the military vehicle to prepare the foundations for the reappearance of the 12<sup>th</sup> Imam, with policy objectives such a hostility toward the U.S. and the eradication of Israel being understood through this prism.... In this regard, efforts by Khamenei and the Guard’s Ideological-Political Organization to nurture a more radical generation among the IRGC has paid, and is paying, dividends.”

Devoted Mahdists could occupy senior leadership positions. Such a scenario could have far reaching consequences as it would bring the three pillars of the IRGC’S foreign policy—militias, ballistic missiles, and the nuclear program—under their control. *Even if a small number of devout Mahdists occupy senior positions in the Guard, it is possible that they may seek to facilitate and speed up the return of the Mahdi. This would have major implications for some of the policies that are being understood through the prism of Mahdism, such as Israel’s existence being the ‘greatest barrier’ to the reappearance of the 12<sup>th</sup> Imam. At present the doctrine of Mahdism in the IRGC remains a complete blind spot for Western policymakers, yet it could have major implications for the Islamic Republic’s militia network, ballistic missile program, and even its nuclear program.*

In other words, when it comes to Iran and nukes, the so-called “balance of power” theory does not apply. It only applies to rational nations interested in self-preservation. For nations whose leaders and upcoming leaders have been systematically indoctrinated into believing that the greatest good is to usher in a “rightly guided” figure from Islamic

legend-no matter the cost, including to that nation itself-the implications are nothing short of apocalyptic!- By Raymond Ibrahim, 2023

Side note: Shortly after his election in 2005, President Ahmadinejad donated the equivalent of \$17 million U.S. dollars of the government funds to prepare a shrine to mark the return of the Twelfth Imam, the messiah of Shiite Islam, of which Ahmadinejad is a follower. Shiites believe, prior to the Twelfth Imam's reappearance, the world will experience death, destruction, and apocalyptic events. At the appointed time, the Imam will save the world from chaos, convert Christians to Islam, and establish global Islamic rule. Sounds like the Muslim version of the Antichrist to me!

## Conspiracy Alert!!!

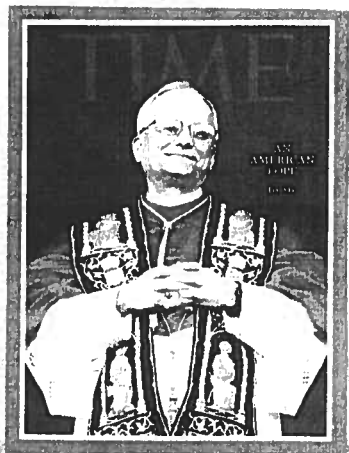
From the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, a senior cardinal proclaimed "Habemus Papam!"-Latin for we have a pope! On May 8, 2025, Cardinal Robert "Francis" Prevost, 69, chose the name Leo, making him Pope Leo XIV. He was selected on the second day of the conclave by at least two-thirds of the 133 participating cardinals.

### Social Justice

The new pope was born in Chicago, ILL. in 1955. However, he is a citizen of Peru as well as of the United States. His significant Latin American background represents a continuity with Pope Francis who came from Argentina. Pope Leo is known as a bridge-builder, as a good listener, as a pastor first, and as such, he is perceived to be a pope who will likely favor continuity with the reforms initiated by Francis. He is said to share Francis' views on migrants, the poor, and the environment.

Pope Leo XIV'S choice of the name "Leo" is telling, signaling his commitment to social justice. The previous Pope Leo XIII (1878-1903) is often recognized as the father of Catholic social justice, largely based on his 1891 encyclical, *Rerum Novarum*. This encyclical, and others that followed, transformed Catholic teaching by launching a whole body of work known as Catholic Social Teaching, the Church's best-kept secret. *Rerum Novarum* focused on issues of social inequality and social justice, claiming that workers and laborers have rights as well as obligations. By taking the name "Leo," the new pope places himself in the social justice camp, which is nothing less than Communism.

### Time Magazine Cover



It appears at this point in time, Pope Leo XIV is playing it safe. He's walking a tightrope trying to please the homosexual and transgender people which Pope Francis welcomed with open arms. But he needs the so-called traditional Catholic conservatives on his side too to keep the church from splitting down the middle. So the question is: how do we know who the new pope really is? Is he a true man of God or a radical Communist agent placed in power by the elite that control the world.

Well, believe it or not, there is actually a way to tell. If he makes it to the cover of Time Magazine you can rest assured that he is just another religious puppet placed in power by the elite to help bring in Satan's one world Communist government.

Down through the years, Time Magazine has promoted false prophets by placing their picture on the front cover of their magazine. Some of these false teachers include Billy Graham, Rick Warren, Pope Francis and T.D. Jakes. Now Robert Prevost (Pope Leo XIV) has been added to the list.

Final comment: Could Pope Leo XIV be the end-time false prophet mentioned in the prophecies of the Bible? (see Rev. 16:13). It's too early to know at this point and time. However, he's definitely the front runner now!

God bless you friend. Stay true to God. The end of the world is drawing near!

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[savedsaved.com](http://savedsaved.com)

P.O. Box 182085 Arlington, TX 76096

*Pressing the battle to the gate!*