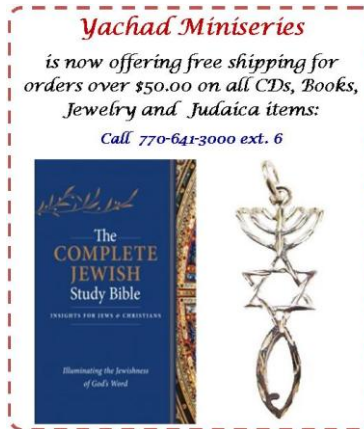


# **Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update April 9, 2026 (Nisan 21, 5786)**



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## ***Israel; Iran's secret revolution: the crown prince who says Christianity is exploding underground***

- *Trump says U.S. military to remain near Iran until peace deal reached*
- *IDF presence in southern Lebanon could hamper potential Israel-Hezbollah truce, Lebanese sources say*
  - *Israeli strikes in Gaza kill four, including Al Jazeera journalist, medics say*
  - *IDF strikes kill 14 in Lebanon after Netanyahu says deal excludes Hezbollah*
  - *Israel to honor Iran cease-fire, but officials are wary of Trump's emerging deal*
  - *World leaders welcome U.S.-Iran cease-fire, urge extending truce to Lebanon*

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## *Standing with Israel!*

***Trump Threatens Iran with 48 Hours Before ‘Gates of Hell Open’;*** US President Donald Trump warned on Friday, April 4, that Iran has 48 hours before “hell” breaks loose. In a post on Truth Social, he reminded Iran that his ten-day window to make a deal or reopen the Strait of Hormuz was drawing to a close. The ultimatum marked the most direct and urgent threat Trump has issued to the Iranian regime since the start of the current conflict. Since the war began, Iran has effectively closed or severely impeded the Strait of Hormuz by declaring it shut, threatening attacks on commercial vessels, deploying fast boats, drones, and missiles, and laying naval mines. The closure has had devastating effects on global shipping and energy markets, with tanker traffic reportedly slashed by more than 90%. US Senator Lindsey Graham confirmed he had spoken with the President and fully supports the ultimatum. Graham warned that a massive military operation awaits Iran if it chooses poorly, adding that the regime has been severely crippled through Operation Epic Fury. Graham said the regime’s reign of terror against the region and the world needs to come to an end, hopefully through a peace deal, but that Trump will use overwhelming military force if Iran refuses a diplomatic solution. (*INN/VFI News*)

***Netanyahu Congratulates Trump on Daring US Pilot Rescue in Iran;*** Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday, April 5, congratulated US President Donald Trump following the successful rescue of a US F-15 crew member who had been stranded in Iranian territory after his aircraft was shot down. The second crew member was recovered after an almost two-day search through mountainous terrain, in what Trump called one of the most daring search and rescue operations in American military history. Netanyahu said the rescue proved that when free societies muster their courage and resolve, they can confront seemingly insurmountable odds and overcome the forces of darkness and terror. He invoked his personal connection, noting that he was wounded during a similar mission and lost his brother Yonatan during the 1976 Entebbe rescue operation. He described the mission as a reinforcement of the sacred principle that no one is left behind. Israeli sources indicated that Israel offered intelligence support and postponed some planned strikes on Iran to avoid interfering with the American rescue operation. The Israeli Air Force also conducted at least one strike to prevent Iranian forces from reaching the area where the downed airman was hiding. The CIA reportedly ran a deception campaign to draw Iranian forces away from the pilot’s actual location. (*DM/VFI News*)

***Netanyahu: Trump Thanked Israel for Helping Rescue Downed Pilot;*** Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu revealed on Sunday, April 5, that he had spoken with US President Donald Trump, who thanked Israel for its critical assistance in the operation to rescue the downed American pilot from enemy territory in Iran. The phone call came after both crew members of the F-15 were safely recovered. Netanyahu said he personally congratulated Trump on his bold decision and the perfectly executed American mission. “The President expressed his appreciation for Israel’s help,” Netanyahu wrote in a social media post following the call. He added that he was deeply proud that cooperation between the two nations on and off the battlefield is unprecedented, and that Israel could contribute to saving a brave

American warrior. Earlier on Sunday, Netanyahu had published a separate video statement celebrating the successful rescue, calling it proof that free societies can confront seemingly insurmountable odds when they act with courage and determination. He drew on his own experience as a wounded veteran and the brother of Yonatan Netanyahu, who fell during the 1976 Entebbe hostage rescue, to underscore the weight of the decision Trump had made. (*INN/VFI News*)

***El Al Cancels All Scheduled Flights Until April 18 Due to War;*** El Al canceled all scheduled flights on Sunday, April 5, extending the suspension through April 18, following the Transportation Ministry's decision to maintain restrictions on the number of passengers and flights permitted to depart from Ben-Gurion Airport amid the ongoing war with Iran. The airline said an emergency flight schedule is currently in effect. Under the emergency schedule, El Al will operate flights only to New York (JFK and Newark), Los Angeles, Miami, Bangkok, London, Paris, Rome, and Athens. New tickets are required to board, and passengers awaiting assignment are being accommodated based on priority by original ticket issue date. Exceptional humanitarian medical cases are given first priority. Customers whose flights were canceled are entitled to a refund or a credit voucher. The Transportation Ministry also approved an increase in the passenger limit from 80 to 100 per departing flight and will now allow two departures per hour, up from one. The ministry had already lifted more severe restrictions imposed during the holiday season, which had lowered the cap to just 50 passengers per flight. The new policy is expected to mark a trend toward gradually easing flight restrictions as conditions allow. (*JPost/VFI News*)

***Relatives of Qasem Soleimani Arrested by Federal Agents in Los Angeles;*** The niece and grand-niece of deceased Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Major General Qasem Soleimani were arrested on Thursday, April 3, by federal agents following Secretary of State Marco Rubio's termination of their lawful permanent resident status. Hamideh Soleimani Afshar and her daughter are now in the custody of US Immigration and Customs Enforcement. While living in the United States, Afshar promoted Iranian regime propaganda, celebrated attacks against American soldiers and military facilities in the Middle East, praised the Iranian Supreme Leader, denounced America, and voiced unwavering support for the IRGC, a designated terror organization. She pushed this propaganda while enjoying a lavish lifestyle in Los Angeles, as shown by her recently deleted Instagram account. In addition to terminating Afshar's status, her husband has been barred from entering the United States. Earlier in the month, Rubio also revoked the legal status of the daughter and son-in-law of former Iranian security official Ali Larijani, who are no longer in the country and are barred from future entry. The State Department said the Trump Administration will not allow America to become a home for foreign nationals who support anti-American terrorist regimes. (*INN/VFI News*)

***Anti-Semitism Sees Sharp 150% Spike in Brazil;*** A new annual report by the Brazilian Israelite Confederation (CONIB) reveals a sharp 150% rise in anti-Semitic incidents in recent years, with nearly 1,000 incidents recorded in Brazil in 2025 alone—an unprecedented figure raising alarm among the country's Jewish community. The surge comes amid an ongoing diplomatic crisis between Israel and Brazil, fueled by hostile rhetoric from President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. A nationwide survey commissioned by StandWithUs Brazil and conducted by the AtlasIntel institute found that 95% of those identifying with the political left believe it is legitimate to compare Israel's treatment of Palestinians to Nazi actions against Jews. Three in ten Brazilians admitted they would not feel comfortable having a Jewish friend, 28% believe it is natural to be suspicious of Jews due to their alleged loyalty to Israel, and one in four Jewish professionals reported experiencing direct workplace discrimination. André Lajst, CEO of StandWithUs Brazil, called the data a resounding wake-up call. He warned that as Brazil approaches its October 2026 elections, hostile rhetoric from senior leadership is normalizing dangerous comparisons between Israel and Nazi Germany, directly fueling anti-Semitic attacks against Brazilian Jews in the

streets, schools, and workplaces. He called for broad educational initiatives and the adoption of internationally recognized definitions of anti-Semitism. (*YNN/VFI News*)

***Archaeologists Uncover Unique Christian Artifact Near the Sea of Galilee;*** Archaeologists have uncovered a one-of-a-kind 1,400-year-old artifact near the Sea of Galilee that may reveal new details about how early Christians practiced baptism. The artifact was found in the ancient city of Hippos, a prominent bishop's seat during the Byzantine era and the only Christian city around the Sea of Galilee, controlling territory closely associated with the ministry of Jesus. The marble block, featuring three hemispheric cavities carved into its top, was discovered in a baptismal hall called a photisterion inside the city's cathedral. Researchers from the University of Haifa believe the three bowls held different oils used during a threefold baptismal immersion ceremony. After extensive examination and comparison, scholars concluded that no known parallels to the artifact exist anywhere in the archaeological record. The baptismal hall where the artifact was found was built after 591 AD and was destroyed by an earthquake in 749 AD, burying the marble and bronze artifacts beneath rubble and preserving them for over a millennium. Michael Eisenberg, the lead archaeologist, said the find is relevant not just for Hippos but for the entire world of ancient Christianity around the Sea of Galilee, believed to be the site of many of Jesus' miracles. (*FOX/VFI News*)

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