

Hurricane Milton Now a Category 5, FL Orders Evacuations

BELLEAIR BEACH, Fla. (AP) – Milton rapidly strengthened into a Category 5 hurricane Monday in the Gulf of Mexico on a path toward Florida, threatening a dangerous storm surge in Tampa Bay, leading to evacuation orders and long gas lines, and lending more urgency to the cleanup from Hurricane Helene, which swamped the same stretch of coastline less than two weeks ago.

A hurricane warning was issued for parts of Mexico's Yucatan state, which expected to get sideswiped, and much of Florida's west coast was under hurricane and storm surge watches. Florida's Lake Okeechobee, which often floods during intense storms, was also under a hurricane watch.

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"This is the real deal here with Milton," Tampa Mayor Jane Castor said at a news conference. "If you want to take on Mother Nature, she wins 100% of the time."

The compact Milton intensified quickly Monday and was expected to become a large hurricane over the eastern Gulf. It had maximum sustained winds of 160 mph (257 kph), the National Hurricane Center said. The storm's center was about 130 miles (210 kilometers) west-northwest of Progreso, Mexico, and about 720 miles (1,160 kilometers) southwest of Tampa at midday Monday, moving east-southeast at 9 mph (15 kph).

Its center could come ashore Wednesday in the Tampa Bay area, and it could remain a hurricane as it moves across central Florida toward the Atlantic Ocean. That would largely spare

other states ravaged by Helene, which killed at least 230 people on its path from Florida to the Appalachian Mountains.

Forecasters warned of a possible 8- to 12-foot storm surge (2.4 to 3.6 meters) in Tampa Bay and said flash and river flooding could result from 5 to 10 inches (13 to 25 centimeters) of rain in mainland Florida and the Keys, with as much as 15 inches (38 centimeters) in places.

The Tampa Bay area is still rebounding from Helene and its powerful surge. Twelve people died, with the worst damage along a string of barrier islands from St. Petersburg to Clearwater.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said Monday that it was imperative that messes from Helene be cleared ahead of Milton's arrival so they don't become projectiles. More than 300 vehicles picked up debris Sunday but encountered a locked landfill gate when they tried to drop it off. State troopers used a rope tied to a pickup truck and busted it open, DeSantis said.

"We don't have time for bureaucracy and red tape," DeSantis said.

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Lifeguards in Pinellas County, on the peninsula that forms Tampa Bay, removed beach chairs and other items that could take flight in strong winds. Elsewhere, stoves, chairs, refrigerators and kitchen tables waited in heaps to be picked up.

Sarah Steslicki, who lives in Belleair Beach, said she was frustrated more debris hadn't been collected sooner.

"They've screwed around and haven't picked the debris up, and now they're scrambling to get it picked up," Steslicki said

Monday morning. “If this one does hit, it’s going to be flying missiles. Stuff’s going to be floating and flying in the air.”

Hillsborough County, home to Tampa, ordered evacuations for areas adjacent to Tampa Bay and for all mobile and manufactured homes by Tuesday night.

“Yes, this stinks. We know that, and it comes on the heels of where a lot of us are still recovering from Hurricane Helene,” Sheriff Chad Chronister said. “But if you safeguard your families, you will be alive.”

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Jonathan Cahn: A World in Flames, Foretold by Scripture

The Ancient Prophecies & Mysteries Behind What Is Happening to Our World

One of the end-time mysteries in *The Dragon’s Prophecy* concerns the nation of Iran. The Bible foretells that in the last days, not only will Israel be in the center of world controversy—but so will the nation of Iran (Persia)—so they are. It specifically prophesies that Iran will be Israel’s enemy. So it is. Further, it foretells that Iran will attack the land of Israel. The fulfillment of this is still yet to

come. But it has never before happened that Iran actually and directly attacked the nation of Israel. As I was working on The Dragon's Prophecy, I was opening several ancient mysteries that ordained the attack of Iran on Israel – and then it happened. For the first time ever, Iran directly attacked the land of Israel. We crossed a prophetic line. And now, on the eve of the Hebrew holy days, Iran has again crossed a prophetic line in sending ballistic missiles into Israel. Israel has promised to strike back. Iran has promised deadly consequences. We are truly living in prophetic times. I didn't plan to write The Dragon's Prophecy. The Lord interrupted me. Now I know why!



Order Jonathan Cahn's "The Dragon's Prophecy" on !

ANALYSIS

Our world is on fire. That which was ignited one year ago on Oct. 7, when Hamas, backed by Iran, invaded Israel and massacred over 1,200 Israeli men, women, youths, children and babies now rages throughout the Middle East. Israel has struck Hezbollah. Iran has struck Israel. And the world now watches on edge in fear of the beginning of a regional war, if not a world war.

What is happening? Is the world spiraling out of control?

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It was a Friday night when I was led to speak at Beth Israel, the congregation I lead in northern New Jersey on an ancient mystery. The mystery was over three thousand years old. It went back to the Bible, to the Book of Leviticus. It wasn't what I fathomed would happen, but the mystery itself ordained that a calamity would come to the nation of Israel. More specifically, the mystery determined the following:

1. Israel would be invaded. The invasion would catch the nation off-guard. It would result in calamity.
2. The invasion would take place in the year 2023.
3. It would happen in the autumn of that year.
4. It would take place in the month of October.
5. It would happen on a Saturday, the Sabbath, the Jewish holy day of rest.
6. It would take place on an ancient Hebrew holy day, one that went back to Mount Sinai and the Book of Leviticus.
7. It would lead to war.
8. It would take place on the first Saturday of October of 2023.

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The first Saturday of October 2023 fell on October 7. On October 7, Israel was invaded, and the nation was caught off guard. The result was a calamity that would lead to war. It happened on the Sabbath and on a Hebrew holy day, Shemini Atzeret, that was given on Mount Sinai and went back to the book of Leviticus. In fact, it happened the very next day after I shared the mystery.

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Global Impact of 'The Chosen': Transforming Lives and Sparking Faith

"The Chosen," the TV series that chronicles the lives of Jesus and His disciples, has become a global phenomenon, sparking spin-off projects, memorabilia and more.

Among the projects that stem from the popular show are a book series and interactive Bible study aimed at helping viewers better connect with Scripture.

Amanda Jenkins, wife of "The Chosen" showrunner Dallas Jenkins, most recently authored, "God's Goodness for the Chosen: An Interactive Bible Study Season 4," a project she says explores the main theme present in season four of the show: human suffering.

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"The show itself really has to do with a lot of suffering," Jenkins told CBN News. "We're starting to see that Jesus is allowing His followers to suffer. He's not removing suffering when He's being asked or in the way He's being asked."

She said this dynamic personally resonated as it's been true in her own life. Similarly, while working on the show, the Jenkins family faced their own struggles.

"I was kind of begging the Lord to heal my daughter," Jenkins said. "She's got a chronic illness and Dallas and I were really suffering watching her suffer. My co-writer was going through a different but same, thematically, season of life."

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The irony, of course, was that Jenkins was helping prepare a Bible study that would inspire others on this very issue. As she explored the matter, she said she came to realize that “seasons of suffering really are more about God in the suffering and how His goodness eclipses our suffering.”

Jenkins candidly shared feeling as though she was doing something wrong as she grappled with her daughter’s own health battles.

“I felt like, I’m doing something wrong. Like, I can’t get out from underneath this. ... I’m working so hard. I’m trying everything I can think of,” she said. “I’m taking her to every specialist in our particular case that I can get a hold of. I’m praying. ... I’m laying it down in faith. I’m doing all the things, and I’m still suffering.”

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**The Old Wooden Cross Still
Stands Amid Helene’s**

Devastation

The damages from Hurricane Helene have left many families and communities broken. Many people are still searching for loved ones and have no place to call home. But there are stories of hope and heroism emerging that not only reflect the resiliency of the survivors but reveal God's faithfulness and that He is "here for His people."

One encouraging story is about a well-known landmark in Greenville, South Carolina.

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The Category 4 storm severely damaged the beloved Pretty Place Chapel.

But one thing is still standing – the cross.

Pretty Place Chapel attracts visitors every year because of its serene location and its majestic view of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

However, video of the chapel shows trees toppled along the property, and large sections of the roof and support beams are destroyed.

Unite US is a "movement of college students united to lift the name of Jesus," according to its website.

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The organization traces its origins to a mass worship event at Auburn University's Neville Arena in September of 2023, where 5,000 students showed up to worship Jesus and 200 were

spontaneously baptized.

Now, the organizers have been coordinating large gatherings at multiple universities in recent months. The goal is to bring the gospel message to college students “with one singular focus – to lift the name of Jesus.”

Evangelist Tonya Prewett reports that, so far, over 2,000 salvations and over 800 baptisms have taken place through the Unite US campus events over the past year.

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Vance Stands Out, Walz Falters in a Civilized VP Debate

What was billed as an open mic brawl turned instead into a relatively respectful and thoughtful vice presidential debate on Tuesday night. However, Democrat Vice Presidential Candidate Tim Walz appeared to have opening jitters and misspoke at the outset when asked about the current situation between Iran and Israel. “Iran, er Israel’s ability to be able to defend itself is absolutely fundamental,” he said.

Eventually, he got around to blaming the former president for

the current mess in the Middle East. "Iran is closer to a nuclear weapon than they were before because of Donald Trump's fickle leadership."

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GOP Presidential Candidate JD Vance turned it around to the ones who are now in charge. "Governor Walz, you blamed Donald Trump," Vance began. "Who has been the vice president for the last three-and-a-half years? The answer is your running mate. Not mine... Iran, which launched this attack, has received over \$100 billion in unfrozen assets thanks to the Kamala Harris administration."

The vice presidential candidates tackled the number one issue on the minds of most Americans: the economy.

Walz went retro, pointing to Donald Trump's record while he was president. "He gave the tax cuts that predominantly went to the top class," Walz said. "What happened? There was an \$8 trillion increase in the national debt, the largest ever."

Vance quickly responded with a comeback about how people are suffering today. "Honestly Tim, I think you have a tough job here because you've got to play whack a mole and pretend Donald Trump didn't deliver rising take home pay, which he did," Vance explained. "You've got to pretend Trump didn't deliver lower inflation, which of course he did, and simultaneously, you have to defend Kamala Harris's atrocious record."

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One of the more animated exchanges came on the abortion issue when Vance challenged Walz on a controversial bill he championed just last year.

“The statute that you signed into law...It says that a doctor who presides over an abortion where a baby survives...Is under no obligation to provide life-saving care!” Vance said looking directly at Walz.

“That’s not true,” Walz replied.

“That’s not what the law said,” Vance simply replied. “That is fundamentally barbaric.”

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Christians and Politics: Myths That Misguide Us During Election Season

“We are still in awe of all that the Lord did this past Sunday,” the church recently posted on Facebook. “Seeing the emotions as people go public with their faith never gets old!”

Pastor Daniel Lucas recently told Kentucky Today that what took place on that Sunday has affected the staff’s Monday morning meetings.

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“There’s a lot of talk about Monday blues after Sunday, but we’re in a season where every Monday we have been grateful to see what God has been doing, to see all year long how faithful people have been. Our team, first thing this (Monday) morning, was super excited to follow up with all these people,” he shared.

The BLC pastor said the church prayed, prepped, and asked members to bring other people for the conclusion of its “Awakening series.”

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Strike by Dockworkers Along U.S. Coastline Risks Worsening Shortages

Dockworkers at ports from Maine to Texas began walking picket lines early Tuesday in a strike over wages and automation that could reignite inflation and cause shortages of goods if it goes on more than a few weeks.

The contract between the ports and about 45,000 members of the International Longshoremen’s Association expired at midnight,

and even though progress was reported in talks on Monday, the workers went on strike. The strike affecting 36 ports is the first by the union since 1977.

Workers began picketing at the Port of Philadelphia shortly after midnight, walking in a circle at a rail crossing outside the port and chanting "No work without a fair contract."

The union had message boards on the side of a truck reading: "Automation Hurts Families: ILA Stands For Job Protection."

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At Port Houston, which is in the Central time zone an hour behind the East Coast, at least 50 workers gathered outside the port with signs saying "No Work Without a Fair Contract." They appeared poised to begin picketing. Workers showed a statement from the ILA on the strike saying that employers have refused to compensate workers fairly.

"The ILA is fighting for respect, appreciation and fairness in a world in which corporations are dead set on replacing hard-working people with automation," the statement said. "Robots do not pay taxes and they do not spend money in their communities."

The U.S. Maritime Alliance, which represents the ports, said Monday evening that both sides had moved off of their previous wage offers, but when picket lines went up just after midnight, it was apparent that no deal had been reached.

The union's opening offer in the talks was for a 77% pay raise over the six-year life of the contract, with President Harold Daggett saying it's necessary to make up for inflation and years of small raises. ILA members make a base salary of about \$81,000 per year, but some can pull in over \$200,000 annually with large amounts of overtime.

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But Monday evening, the alliance said it had increased its offer to 50% raises over six years, and it pledged to keep limits on automation in place from the old contract. The union wants a complete ban on automation. It wasn't clear just how far apart both sides are.

"We are hopeful that this could allow us to fully resume collective bargaining around the other outstanding issues in an effort to reach an agreement," the alliance statement said.

The union didn't answer requests for comment on the talks Monday night, but said earlier in the day that the ports had refused demands for a fair contract and the alliance seemed intent on a strike. The two sides had not held formal negotiations since June.

The alliance said its offer tripled employer contributions to retirement plans and strengthened health care options.

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