

# Top ten religion stories: In 2001

News

December 18, 2001

- 1.** Extremist hijackers wreak death and destruction, launching a U.S.-led “war on terrorism” deeply religious in roots and responses with opposing definitions of “evil” and “good.”
- 2.** Heightened attention to Islam, especially improved relations with U.S. Muslims, with President Bush and mainstream churches at the fore.
- 3.** White House efforts to win approval for faith-based initiative thwarted by church-state objections.
- 4.** Bush OKs limited federally supported stem-cell embryo research, but concerns resurface on private human cloning attempts.
- 5.** Israeli-Palestinian violence worsens with suicide bombings before and after September 11.
- 6.** Turmoil in Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) over homosexuality issues, including June vote to recommend gay ordinations.
- 7.** Death penalty debates revived by Timothy McVeigh execution and cases of DNA evidence freeing prisoners.
- 8.** Evangelical Lutheran Church in America deals with unsanctioned ordination of lesbian pastor; elects new presiding bishop.
- 9.** Intrepid Pope John Paul II tries to mend Eastern Orthodox bridges with visits to Greece, Ukraine and Armenia; first visit to a mosque.
- 10.** Civil rights leader Jesse Jackson admits to fathering child out of wedlock.