

# Newsbytes

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“Let us be alert to the season in which we are living. It is the season of the Blessed Hope, calling for us to cut our ties with the world and build ourselves on this One who will soon appear. He is our hope—a Blessed Hope enabling us to rise above our times and fix our gaze upon Him.” Tozer

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## 'Earthquakes are an attempt to destroy Al-Aqsa mosque'

'Earthquakes are an attempt to destroy Al-Aqsa mosque'

Jordanian journalist claims Israel created recent earthquakes in order to destroy mosque, church.

Shimon Cohen, 7.18.18

Maal Zakarna, a columnist for Jordan's Ad-Dustour daily claimed several days ago that Israel caused the recent earthquakes by testing nuclear weapons or a new type of weapon underground.

While nuclear testing does cause the ground to shake, the earthquakes it produces are unique enough that seismologists have been able to differentiate between nuclear tests and earthquakes for decades.

MEMRI reported that according to Zakarna, these "experiments" are part of Israel's attempt to cause a man-made earthquake in order to collapse Al-Aqsa mosque, the Dome of the Rock, and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

"The earthquakes focused especially on the area of the Kinneret (Sea of Galilee - ed.) and its surroundings and measured around 4 on the Richter scale," Zakarna wrote in his article. "This raises the question of what caused these earthquakes, their timing, and their location. It could be that they were caused by experimental explosions carried out by the Israeli occupation's army at a certain depth under the Kinneret. [This would be done] in order to test new weapons, such as smaller nuclear bombs which have limited influence, or a conventional weapon created for use against regional armies, which the occupying state believes.... constitute a new kind of threat."

"It could be that these actions are preparation for a major criminal action against sites in occupied Jerusalem which are holy to Islam and Christianity, and especially against the Al-Aqsa mosque, Dome of the Rock, and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, while [at the same time] create a pre-planned earthquake to destroy them in preparation for creating a Holy Temple in the attempt to Judaize Jerusalem.

"We cannot trust the Israeli occupation, since it acts, plans, and plots, and at the end of the day - destroys - in order to achieve political, geographic, and Biblical goals. It does not hesitate to use the technology, knowledge, and science in its hands in order to complete its planned expansion, while blaming nature and natural causes. It also is not ashamed to ask for aid from other countries in the region and the world, in order to cover up its crimes and carry out its plans for Judaization at their expense.

"The other thing that raises suspicion that the occupation had a hand in creating these earthquakes is the fact that it did nothing and did not take any preparatory or cautionary steps of any sort to [help] deal with the large earthquake which its own expert geologists claimed would occur after the smaller earthquakes. The occupation continued to watch the public's reactions, until it understood that its mischief had been discovered and that no one had fallen for it. So they stopped the experiments."

Israel and Jordan both sit on the Syrian-African rift, a strike-slip fault which is geologists believe produces a major earthquake every century or so. While geologists agree that Israel needs to prepare for a major earthquake which could strike at any moment, they are divided over whether the recent smaller earthquakes are a sign of an upcoming major earthquake or stand "alone."

Earlier this year, a councilman in Washington, D.C., suggested on Facebook that rich Jews who control the weather caused an unexpected snowstorm.

### **Did he read Revelation 11:13 – :**

## **'Major earthquake would kill 7,000, destroy bridges'**

State Comptroller finds Israel only partially prepared for major earthquake, which would have devastating consequences.

Arutz Sheva

The State Comptroller, retired judge Yosef Shapira, published the report on "State Preparedness for an Earthquake" on Wednesday afternoon, which examines the preparedness of national infrastructures and buildings in the State of Israel.

In light of recent earthquakes in the north, the State Comptroller instructed the publication of the report, which presents an up-to-date picture of the deficiencies in earthquake assessments.

Experts in the field believe that the occurrence of a strong earthquake, with all its severe consequences, is almost certain. Its impact on different regions of the country will be enormous. According to the government-approved preparedness examination, in the event of a major earthquake, Israel could expect 7,000 fatalities, 8,600 people seriously injured, 37,000 people lightly injured, 9,500 people trapped in rubble and 170,000 made homeless.

From July 2017 to February 2018, the State Comptroller's Office examined the preparedness of the country's infrastructure bodies for earthquakes. Completion tests were conducted by May 2018. The audit focused on the preparation phase prior to the occurrence of an earthquake.

The report found that out of the over-70 bridges in Israel considered to be at high levels of seismic risk, only three had been reinforced.

It was also found that of the 1,600 schools which needed to be reinforced against earthquakes, only 50 had been reinforced so far and only 200 were in the planning stages to be reinforced. The structures which require reinforcement are those which were built before 1984, when new construction was required to adhere to current standards of earthquake durability.

"Despite the Ministry of Education's attempts to jump-start the reinforcement project in the local authorities, while allocating a dedicated budget and training engineers and contractors to carry out the work, to date,

the minority of schools have been reinforced," the report said.

"Since the implementation of the reinforcement depends on the local authorities and the Education Ministry does not have the authority to oblige them to implement it, full cooperation is required from all the relevant bodies, including the Education Ministry, the local authorities, the steering committee and the Interior Ministry."

The Comptroller also noted that Israel currently possesses one natural gas line, and that the country's electricity supply could be severely disrupted if the line was damaged in an earthquake.

Ben Gurion international Airport could also be severely damaged in the event of a major earthquake.

Other deficiencies found in the report included: Partial reinforcement of hospitals and health institutions - despite a government decision in 2008 to strengthen public buildings, including hospitals, until the completion of the audit, the hospitals were only partially reinforced. Moreover, the Health Ministry has no information on the physical condition and the degree of compliance of the geriatric and nursing institutions, which are attended by thousands of citizens in nursing, rehabilitative and psychiatric departments.

Resistance Fire station buildings - fire stations have a critical role to play in the first response to the earthquake-hit population, both by putting out the fires and by rescuing them. Until the end of the audit period, the Fire Department and the Public Security Ministry had no comprehensive information about the stations that could themselves be hit by an earthquake.

In addition, some 185 police stations, fire stations and MDA and IPS facilities were built before 1980 and are at high risk in the event of an earthquake.

The last major earthquake to strike the State of Israel occurred in 1927. The earthquake, which measured 6.2 on the Richter Scale, caused the deaths of about 500 people.

## With breakdown of Russian-Israeli "understandings" for S. Syria, Israel will strike Iranian targets

DEBKAfile Exclusive:

The US-Russian-Israel formula for South Syria, composed in painstaking discussions for weeks, is not working. This became clear in phone conversations on Friday, July 20, between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and President Vladimir Putin and their defense ministers. The "understandings" they had apparently reached were proving inoperable, including Russia's guarantees for the non-presence of Iranian militias and Hizballah near Israel's Golan border.

The breakdown stemmed from an abrupt Russian U-turn. Russian diplomats were suddenly claiming that Moscow never agreed to have Iranian proxies and Hizballah pushed back from the Israel border or out of Syria at large. According to DEBKAfile's military sources, Netanyahu and Lieberman responded to this discovery by declaring that Israel would now feel free to wipe out any positions or bases those pro-Iranian and Hizballah forces, fighting with Syrian army units, may set up in Daraa and Quneitra. Strikes would also continue as before against those targets in other parts of Syria.

Only two understandings survived the Russian-Israeli leaders' phone calls on Friday,:

The Russian-IDF military coordination mechanism in Syria would continue to function to avert clashes. The Russian military would not interfere with Israel military operations in Syria.

Moscow's abrupt reversion to the status quo ante effectively erased President Donald Trump's disclosure in Helsinki just four days earlier of a collaborative effort agreed between the US, Russia and Israel at his summit with the Russian leader: He told reporters: "President Putin is also helping Israel. We both spoke to Bibi Netanyahu. They would like to do certain things with respect to Syria, having to do with the safety of Israel. In that respect, we absolutely would like to work in order to help Israel. Israel will be working with us. So both countries would work jointly."

Netanyahu discovered when he talked to Putin on Friday that the Russian leader has no interest in working together for "the safety of Israel"—certainly not in the way it is understood in Washington and Jerusalem. Their relations on the personal level will likely remain, but security ties at the strategic level will be wound back to their low point of a year ago.

## The Rise Of 'Woker-Than-Thou' Evangelicalism

Phil Johnson

Unless you have been living in seclusion somewhere, you will have noticed that a radical putsch is currently underway to get evangelicals on board with doctrines borrowed from Black Liberation Theology, Critical Race Theory, Intersectional Feminism, and other ideologies that are currently stylish in the left-leaning secular academy. All of these things are being aggressively promoted in the name of "racial reconciliation." This has suddenly given rise to a popular movement that looks to be far more influential—and a more ominous threat to evangelical unity and gospel clarity—than the Emergent campaign was 15 years ago. The movement doesn't have an official name yet, but the zealots therein like to refer to themselves as "woke." Evangelical thought leaders boast of their wokeness and vie with one another to be woker-than-thou.

In many ways, today's Woke Evangelicals are merely an echo of their Emergent forebears. The central threads of their rhetoric are identical, and many of their goals are similar—starting with their campaign to convince other evangelicals that gospel clarity alone will never reach a hostile culture. To do that, they say, we must strive for postmodern political correctness. We need to try to "make Christianity cool." Nowadays, that means race must be an issue in practically every subject we deal with. Meanwhile, diversity, tolerance, inclusivity, and a host of other postmodern "virtues" have begun to edge out the actual fruit of the Spirit in the language and conversation of some of our wokest brethren.

The Gospel Coalition (TGC) and Together for the Gospel (T4G) were founded little more than a decade ago to bring Christians together around a shared commitment to the foundational doctrines of gospel truth. Earlier this year both organizations sponsored conferences promoting Woke dogmas. Both of them, for example, paid homage to Dr. Martin Luther King not only as a great champion of civil rights (which he certainly was), but also as an exemplar of gospel truth and authentic Christian conviction (which he emphatically was not). Those of us who don't believe that kind of "wokeness" reflects biblical integrity have been scolded, shamed, and called racists by key leaders from both organizations.

In other words, these two organizations that were originally founded to unite believers in the proclamation and defense of the gospel are now dividing evangelicals over something other than the gospel. Under the guise of being Woke they are championing ideological dogmas and political policies that no biblically-minded Christian in any generation of church history ever considered germane to the gospel.

They are actually shifting the evangelical focus away from true gospel issues.

In short, I fear both TGC and T4G are dangerously close to becoming exactly what they were founded to oppose.

## People by Thousands Getting Microchips Embedded

Thousands of people across Sweden are getting microchips embedded in their bodies, mainly, according to a report, because they “have a strong faith in all things digital ... in the positive potential of technology.”

The confirmation comes in a report from Phys.org, which raised the very issue that has such trends raising eyebrows among the many faith traditions that follow the Bible.

“A belief in digital technology and a trust in its potential has strongly affected Swedish culture. And the transhumanist movement has built upon this. In fact, Sweden played an important part in the formation of the transhumanist ideology,” the report said.

“The global transhumanist foundation Humanity+ was co-founded by the Swede Nick Bostrom in 1998. Since then, many Swedes have become convinced that they should be trying enhance and improve their biological bodies.”

But the Bible warns against the “mark of the beast,” which many groups consider to include body-chipping.

Christian author David Jeremiah has a basic explanation of the biblical teaching.

“During the Tribulation, every living person will be required to be marked with the number 666 – the mark of the beast,” his website explains. “In Rev. 13 we are told the beast from the earth (the false prophet) will introduce the mark: ‘He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.’”

“Those who refuse to take it will be forced to go bankrupt or starve,” the site explains.

Phys.org explains, “as the world expresses shock at the number of people being microchipped in Sweden, we should use this opportunity to delve deeper into Sweden’s remarkable relationship with all thing digital. After all, this latest phenomenon is just one manifestation of an underlying faith in technology that makes Sweden quite unique.”

The report explains the microchips because pursued by “thousands” in Sweden, “can function as contactless credit cards, key cards, and even rail cards.”

“Once the chip is underneath your skin, there is no longer any need to worry about misplacing a card or carrying a heavy wallet. But for many people, the idea of carrying a microchip in their body feels more dystopian than practical.”

The report said some think the powerful welfare state in Sweden may be pushing this trend.

“But actually, the factors behind why roughly 3,500 Swedes have had microchips implanted in them are more complex than you might expect. This phenomenon reflects Sweden’s unique biohacking scene. If you look underneath the surface, Sweden’s love affair with all things digital goes much deeper than these microchips.”

Among biohackers, who target anything biological, “wetware hackers are citizen science hobby biologists who build laboratory equipment from household utensils. They conduct so called ‘frugal science,’ where they find inexpensive solutions that will improve the living standards for people in developing countries. But they also do more playful experiments where plants are genetically modified to become fluorescent, or algae is used to make new types of beer.”

Then there are transhumanists, Phys.org said, who “focus on enhancing and improving the human body – with the aim, in the long run, of improving the human race.”

In reality, the report explains, it’s just what society is doing there.

“Over the past two decades, the Swedish government has invested heavily in technology infrastructure – and it shows. The Swedish economy is now largely based on digital export, digital services and digital tech innovations. And Sweden has become one of the most successful countries in the world at creating and exporting digital products.”