

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

Alarming Trend Of Large Earthquakes In Diverse Places

Michael Snyder prophecynewswatch.com

Unusually large earthquakes have been striking diverse locations all over the United States in recent months, and experts are not exactly sure why this is happening. On Sunday, a very strange magnitude 5.1 earthquake that hit North Carolina made headlines all over the nation.

In fact, when I checked the Drudge Report on Sunday it was the top headline on the entire site. Earthquakes of this size very rarely happen in the eastern United States, and it is being reported that this quake was the most powerful to hit the state in more than one hundred years...

A 5.1 magnitude earthquake felt in Charlotte shortly after 8 a.m. Sunday was centered just over a mile south of Sparta, near the Virginia border, the strongest quake to hit North Carolina in more than a century.

In fact, it was the strongest earthquake in the state since 1916, according to the National Weather Service, when a 5.2 magnitude quake occurred near Skyland, just outside of Asheville.

Prior to this quake, western North Carolina would have been one of the areas that I would have said is least vulnerable to earthquakes in the entire country.

I was very surprised that this quake happened, and we are being told that it actually "shook homes and rattled dishes as far away as Atlanta". The epicenter was very close to Sparta, and the mayor of Sparta said that it felt like "a big wave coming underneath the bed"...

"It felt like a big locomotive going by and a big wave coming underneath the bed," Sparta Mayor Wes Brinegar told CNN. "A big wave coming to lift you. ... I've lived here my whole life and have never felt anything like that."

Of course this earthquake in North Carolina is just the latest in a series of very large earthquakes that have hit our country in recent months.

For example, on July 22nd a magnitude 7.8 earthquake hit Alaska...

A powerful 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck off the coast of Alaska, south of the Aleutian Islands, Tuesday night (July 21) local time, prompting fear of a tsunami, the U.S. Geological Survey reported.

The good news is that very little damage was done because that quake struck in a very remote location. But if an earthquake that powerful had hit Los Angeles, San Francisco or Seattle, the death and

destruction would have been off the charts.

Back on May 15th, a magnitude 6.5 earthquake forced the governor of Nevada to declare a state of emergency. According to a local media report, it was the largest earthquake to hit the state since 1954...

Gov. Steve Sisolak declared a state of emergency Thursday after an earthquake on May 15 damaged three highways in three Western Nevada counties.

The earthquake along the Walker Lane fault system struck near Tonopah last week with a magnitude of 6.5, making it the largest quake reported in Nevada since 1954. Since the quake hit, dozens of aftershocks have rattled the area.

A different earthquake of equal intensity hit the state of Idaho on March 31st. That particular quake was the most powerful that Idaho had experienced since the Borah Peak earthquake of 1983...

On March 31, a 6.5 magnitude earthquake rolled through Idaho's Sawtooth mountain range, northeast of Boise. It was the second largest earthquake to strike Idaho, according to the Idaho Statesman. (The strongest temblor in Idaho history, 1983's Borah Peak earthquake, registered as a magnitude 6.9.)

More than 1000 aftershocks followed the initial event, and according to Popular Mechanics that area of the country still "hasn't stopped shaking"...

But the region hasn't stopped shaking since. The area has experienced a string of aftershocks in the months following the quake, some registering as high as magnitude 4.8. The shaking has been so strong, in fact, that a popular beach along Stanley Lake in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area has sunk into the water.

Before the Idaho quake came along and upstaged it, everyone was talking about the large earthquake that had just hit Utah.

On March 18th, a magnitude 5.7 earthquake shook Salt Lake City so badly that it actually knocked the trumpet out of the hand of the angel Moroni...

The 5.7-magnitude earthquake that shook Utah Wednesday morning also dislodged a symbolic part of Salt Lake City's iconic Mormon temple: the trumpet of an angel statue atop its highest spire.

Last, but certainly not least, I want to remind everyone that southern California was shaken by two very large earthquakes just over a year ago, and those initial quakes were followed by more than 80,000 aftershocks...

More than 80,000 earthquakes have been recorded in the Ridgecrest area since July 4 -- the aftermath from two of the biggest temblors to hit California in nearly a decade.

Experts said the two major quakes -- the first measuring magnitude 6.4, the second 7.1 -- led to a particularly energetic aftershock sequence before slowing down.

So exactly why have we been witnessing so many unusually large earthquakes in such diverse locations all over the nation?

About four or five years ago there was a tremendous spike in earthquake activity in the central portion of the country, and many blamed that spike on fracking.

But none of the areas that I discussed in this article are known for fracking. Instead, these quakes appear to be occurring naturally, and the experts seem to be unable to explain why this is happening.

Of course many Christians are pointing out that Jesus warned that there would be an increase in earthquakes in the last days, and many believe that seismic activity will eventually be far, far more severe than what we are currently experiencing.

Our planet is not static. It has been changing all throughout human history, and it will continue to change in the years ahead.

Despite all of our advanced technology, we are highly vulnerable. We could literally wake up tomorrow morning and find out that a seismic event has destroyed one of our major cities, and scientists insist that it is just a matter of time before such a disaster becomes a reality.

There are some that have attempted to minimize their risk by living in "low risk areas", but as we have seen recently even "low risk areas" can be hit.

In the end, the reality of the matter is that we are living on a highly unstable giant rock that is hurtling through space at incredible speed, and we should not take a single day for granted.

People In Israel Are Preparing Show-Bread For Service In Third Temple

prophecynewswatch.com

Les Saidel, a veteran immigrant to Israel, originally from Johannesburg, South Africa, likely knows more about the Biblical showbread than anyone else on earth.

Called Lechem Hapanim in Hebrew (literally, bread of the faces), the ancient art of preparing the showbread for use in the Holy Temple in Jerusalem has not been practiced for close to 2000 years.

During the Second Temple period, the showbreads were baked by the Garmu family of Levi'im (Levites). Each Friday, the Garmu family baked a new set of 12 loaves. Each of the loaves represented one of the 12 Tribes. They were placed on the Temple's golden shulchan (table) in two stacks of six and they remained on the shulchan all week.

According to Saidel, these special breads had miracles associated with them during the time the Holy Temples stood in Jerusalem. Despite the fact that the breads sat out uncovered for seven days, they miraculously remained fresh and warm, even a week later.

The showbreads were replaced every Friday and the previous week's showbreads were distributed among the incoming and outgoing shifts of kohanim (priests assigned to work in the Temple). Saidel explained that this amounted to 400 or 500 people eating from these 12 loaves. Despite the fact that each kohen (priest) received only a small amount of bread, it miraculously was as filling as if they had eaten an entire meal.

Saidel has lived in Israel for 35 years. For the first 25 years after making aliyah (immigrating to Israel), he worked as a computer programmer. Given the combination of the bursting of the .com bubble and a bit of a mid-life crisis after finding himself without a job, Saidel returned to his childhood passion of baking 11 years ago.

"I fell in love with whole grain bread," he reported. He and his wife "opened an artisan bakery serving

healthy organic breads and baked goods." Over the last five years, their business pivoted from primarily baking and selling bread to mostly offering baking workshops for families, Jewish and Christian tourists and school groups.

The Saidels started out teaching about baking challah (the traditional braided Shabbat bread) and sourdough breads. In 2017, Les created a workshop called Breads of the Beit HaMikdash (Temple) which launched his passion for researching the history of bread in the Holy Temple.

Today, the Showbread Institute, established in 2018 and based in Israel's Shomron (Samaria), exists to "to serve as an umbrella organization for the research, publication and educational activities... and to reacquaint the People of Israel with the Temple Service in preparation for the rebuilding of the Third Temple, speedily in our days," the website explains.

Unfortunately, the Garmu family who used to bake the Temple's showbread didn't record how they did it. "The secret of the Lechem Hapanim was lost after the Second Temple," Saidel explained.

He's on a mission to recover all the lost secrets.

"The showbread is the iconic bread of the Beit HaMikdash. I've been studying for six years and still don't know half of it." There is an entire tractate in the Talmud, over a hundred pages long, that deals with breads in the Beit HaMikdash. "It's an incredibly complicated bread, filled with lots of symbolism and life lessons," he shared.

The bagel is often thought of as Jewish bread, but Saidel explained that the bagel was copied from a Christian bread prepared for Lent. Challah is also not originally a Jewish bread. "From all the breads in Jewish history, the only one that is Jewish is showbread. All the others were copied and not originally Jewish. The showbread is [historically] unprecedented. It was a breathtaking bread."

Saidel authored the forthcoming book *The Jewish Bread Bible* which covers the history of bread from the time of Adam and Eve to the present day. He expects it to be published before the end of 2020.

Among his lessons are that three important aspects of the Temple service symbolized a different blessing. The menorah symbolized the blessing of spirituality and the light of the Torah. The ketoret (incense) symbolized the blessing of prayer and defense against evil influences and the golden shulchan on which the showbread was placed symbolized the blessing of wealth, abundance and prosperity.

Why is any of this relevant now? Saidel explained that, "We have to learn how they did things in the Temple to be ready for the Third Temple.

"Bread is an excellent medium to teach people how they did the avodah (service) in the Beit HaMikdash," he commented. In their live workshops, participants have the chance to mix and bake and smell the bread and the levonah (frankincense) associated with it.

"We don't just bake. Everyone gets a workstation. As we're doing each thing, I explain the reasoning and symbolism: why the salt has to be sea salt; why it was the shape it was; why the water was lukewarm. Nothing was random in the Beit HaMikdash. Everything was designed to evoke an emotion or spiritual thought," he elaborated.

"When people do the workshop, they are transported back 2000 years. It's a multi-sensory experience," he said.

Iran, Turkey slam UAE, claim Israel deal a 'dagger' in backs of Palestinians, Muslims

The Middle East "will never forget and will never forgive this hypocritical behavior" by the UAE, Turkey said
By Dom Calicchio | Fox News

Iran and Turkey harshly criticized the United Arab Emirates for its deal this week with Israel, framing it as an act of betrayal against Palestinians and Muslims.

The historic UAE-Israel, brokered by the U.S. and considered a major foreign policy triumph for President Trump, would make the UAE the third Arab country, behind Egypt and Jordan, to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel.

The UAE also would be the first Gulf-region state to have such an arrangement with Israel.

The deal, which Trump announced Thursday, followed years of peace and improving relations between the UAE and Israel. It calls for broader cooperation between the two nations on trade, travel, tourism and other areas.

But in statements following the announcement, officials in both Iran and Turkey derided the accord as a step backward for Middle East.

Iran's Foreign Ministry called the agreement a "dagger that was unjustly struck by the UAE in the backs of the Palestinian people and all Muslims," according to The Associated Press.

Turkish officials said the region's people "will never forget and will never forgive this hypocritical behavior" by the UAE.

The Turkish Foreign Ministry claimed the UAE had no right to negotiate the deal on behalf of the Palestinians.

Trump described the deal as a "HUGE breakthrough" in a Twitter message Thursday morning – and predicted later that the accord could spur other, similar deals between other countries in the Middle East.

"We are already discussing this with other nations," Trump said. "So, you will probably see others of these."

The agreement also drew praise from former Vice President Joe Biden, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee who is expected to face Trump in November in a battle for the White House.

Jared Kushner on Israel, UAE 'breakthrough': 'Historic achievement' that rebuilt trust after Iran deal
Video Biden praised the move as "a historic step to bridge the deep divides of the Middle East," calling the UAE's offer to "publicly recognize the State of Israel is a welcome, brave, and badly-needed act of statesmanship.

"It is a critical recognition that Israel is a vibrant, integral part of the Middle East that is here to stay," Biden added. "Israel can and will be a valued strategic and economic partner to all who welcome it."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu praised the accord as the "greatest advancement toward peace" in the region in two decades.

Israel, the UAE and other Middle Eastern countries have drawn closer in recent years, in part because of the common view of Iran as a potential regional threat, the AP reported.

Turkey previously had cordial relations with Israel but changed its stance under President Tayyip Erdogan, who has positioned his nation as a supporter of the Palestinians, the AP reported.

Fox News' Brooke Singman and Barnini Chakraborty and The Associated Press contributed to this story.

John MacArthur Sues California, Wins Case Over COVID-19 Regulations

Alex Murashko

Pastor John MacArthur and Grace Community Church have filed a lawsuit against California Gov. Gavin Newsom, and other state and local officials, claiming their coronavirus pandemic regulations directed to churches are unconstitutional.

Editor's note: the court case has just concluded and John MacArthur has been successful in his attempts to keep church doors open.

'We will not render to Caesar': Despite threats of arrest, John MacArthur pressing ahead with church

The suit, filed by a Thomas More Society Special Council in the Superior Court of the State of California County of Los Angeles on Thursday (8/13/2020), seeks "to prohibit California from enforcing its unconstitutional and onerous coronavirus pandemic regulations against Grace Community Church and seeks a judgment that the health orders violate the California Constitution."

The Special Council's complaint, led by Jenna Ellis and Charles LiMandri, states that "the American people have begun to see that they are being cheated by their own government."

"They have witnessed how the onerous restrictions imposed on them by public officials to allegedly fight the COVID-19 pandemic simply do not apply to certain, favored groups. When many went to the streets to engage in 'political protests' against 'racism' and 'police brutality,' these protesters refused to comply with the pandemic restrictions," stated Thomas More Society lawyers. "Instead of enforcing the public health orders, public officials were all too eager to grant a de facto exception for these favored protesters."

The lawyers for MacArthur believe that citizens are being misled by the US government which in turn has "irreparably damaged the confidence of Americans—and Californians especially — who now realize that the pandemic restrictions are neither necessary nor good." Therefore, they state, Grace Community Church decided to resume worship services on Sunday, July 26 — "joining millions of Americans in deciding that enough is enough."

"With deaths from the 'COVID-19 suicide pandemic' exceeding those from the actual coronavirus pandemic, Grace Community Church decided that it would no longer sit by and watch its congregants and their children suffer from an absence of religious worship and instruction. Perhaps unsurprisingly —perhaps not — this led the County of Los Angeles to submit a demand letter to Grace Community Church, ordering it to comply with the restrictions that Los Angeles County deems unnecessary to enforce against so many others. Grace Community Church does not intend to comply."

MacArthur has pledged to keep the doors of his church open despite opposition from officials.

"We are simply continuing to do today what we have done for the past 63 years, that Grace Community Church has been open to welcome the Los Angeles community and serve their spiritual needs," the pastor said in a statement. "We will remain open and teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all who decide they want to come worship with us."

The Thomas More Society, which is a not-for-profit, national public interest law firm dedicated to “restoring respect in law for life, family, and religious liberty,” states the case goes beyond a public safety issue.

“It is unconstitutional for Governor Newsom and the State of California to discriminate against churches by treating them less favorably than other organizations and activities that are not protected by the First Amendment,” LiMandri said.

“This isn’t about health. It’s about blatantly targeting churches,” Ellis said.

Citing Anti-Semitism, 140 French Jews Move to Israel – Nearly Half Under 18

“I am so happy that we are moving to Israel and that we will never have to go through such experiences again,” said one immigrant.

By Israel Kasnett, JNS

A total of 140 new olim (immigrants) from France arrived in Israel earlier this week and were welcomed at Ben-Gurion Airport by Pnina Tamano-Shata, Israeli Minister of Immigration and Absorption, and the president of the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews (IFCJ), Yael Eckstein, whose organization arranged the flight.

Many of the new immigrants who arrived on Monday had experienced some degree of anti-Semitism back home, which they said influenced their decision to move to Israel.

Several days before the flight with her husband and three children, Barbara Simha Bohadana said from Paris: “I was fired because I was Jewish. A pharmacy manager, who I worked for as a pharmacist, did not even try to hide the reason for my dismissal. He just told me that a wig or any other sign of my Jewishness was not acceptable, and that if I did not have them removed, I should just get up and leave. So I got up and left.”

Bohadana said her husband, an anesthesiologist by profession, “also had a hard time finding a job because of his Jewish background.”

“We have always been Zionists, and we knew we would make aliyah,” she added. “We are a religious family and abide by a traditional Jewish lifestyle. I am so happy that we are moving to Israel and that we will never have to go through such experiences again.”

Nearly half of the new arrivals are children under the age of 18. Eleven of the olim are medical and paramedical professionals. Seventeen have careers in high-tech, while 27 have experience in liberal-arts professions. Fifty in all will be moving to the coastal city of Netanya, north of Tel Aviv, and 31 plan to move to Israel’s capital of Jerusalem. The rest seek other areas of the country.

Lionel Giuli, 41, who made aliyah with his wife, Stephanie, and their three children, noted: “My parents live in Israel, as well as my sister and a lot of other family members. We always knew we would make aliyah. We were always connected to Israel and maintained Jewish tradition.”

According to Giuli, the Hypercacher kosher supermarket siege in January 2015 was “the straw that broke the camel’s back.”

That attack took place when Amedy Coulibaly, an ISIS terrorist, killed four people and took several

hostages before he was shot and killed by police, who stormed the supermarket.

After that incident, Giuli said he finally decided to move to Israel.

Although he and his family didn't suffer any physical violence, the plague of anti-Semitism has had a direct impact on every member of the Jewish community, he said.

"If, for example, while I was sitting and eating in my store and I heard someone enter, I automatically took off my kippah," he said, adding that neither he nor his children went out in public wearing Jewish symbols for fear of being attacked.

Giuli noted that he had often traveled to Israel, visiting family members and his parents, who live in Jerusalem. "I always felt at home in Israel. I feel free in Israel, and I no longer have to hide my Jewish identity. This reflex I developed that made me take my kippah off and put it in my pocket will no longer be necessary."

He also said moving during the coronavirus pandemic has not scared them at all: "We are aware of the situation in Israel, which as a whole has coped well, especially in the first wave when France was facing a shortage of masks."

'Gates Still Open, Even During an Emergency'

At the airport to greet the new arrivals, Tamano-Shata said, "In 2020, we will welcome more than 10,000 olim from all over the world. It is a great privilege for me ... to manage aliyah during this challenging time.

"I congratulate our brothers and sisters from France, who are Zionists and full of love for this country, and who today realized their dream of making aliyah and uniting with the people living in Zion," she said.

Tamano-Shata invited more Jews to move to Israel, noting that "the Jews of Europe and the rest of the world are currently facing complex challenges, and every Jew should know that the gates of this country are still open, even during an emergency or crisis."

As for the IFCJ, for more than 20 years, it has been helping Jews make aliyah. In 2014, the Fellowship began operating independently in the field of immigration and since then has brought more than 23,000 Jews to Israel from 30 countries around the world. New immigrants receive comprehensive assistance, including special grants.

Eckstein told JNS that the 140 olim represent the fulfillment of biblical prophecy and Zionism.

"Throughout Israel's history, aliyah has never stopped," she said. "Even now during the coronavirus crisis, the Fellowship continues to help Jews return to their homeland. We are so blessed to have Christian and Jewish friends in America and around the world who continue to help us do our work despite these challenges."