



PROPHETIC TIMES

January, 1998

Weekly World News Briefs

May 20, 2017

DECADES AFTER CATASTROPHIC 1980 ERUPTION, MOUNT ST. HELENS IS 'RECHARGING'

May 18, 2017 abc.go.news.com reported: "Mount St. Helens erupted on May 18, 1980, after two months of increasing volcanic activity. Since its most recent eruption in 2008, there has been a swarm of earthquakes, which are thought to be a result of the magmatic system's "recharging," according to the Pacific Northwest Seismic Network.

Similar seismic swarms were detected during recharging periods before a small eruption in 2004 and through a period of volcanic activity that ended in 2008. In March through May of this year, swarms of deep earthquakes, not even felt on the surface, have been detected. Seismic swarms do not directly indicate that an eruption is imminent, because volcanic forecasting is difficult, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

The 1980 eruption is widely considered the most disastrous volcanic eruption in U.S. history. It killed 57 people and destroyed hundreds of homes, 57 bridges and some 200 miles of roads, in addition to leveling tens of thousands of acres of forest.

The eruption sent an ash cloud more than 12 miles into the atmosphere in just 10 minutes. Fine ash reached the Northeast two days later and circled the earth within 15 days, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The volcano had been dormant for more than 100 years until seismic activity started to increase in March 1980."..."



FOREIGN-BORN WORKERS NOW ACCOUNT FOR 17 PERCENT OF U.S. LABOR FORCE

May 18, 2017 dallasnews.com reported: "Immigrants represent a steadily growing share of the American workforce, a trend that could be interrupted by U.S. efforts to overhaul immigration policy.

The number of foreign-born workers in the U.S. rose to nearly 27 million in 2016, up about 700,000 from the previous year and representing 16.9 percent of the nation's labor force, according to an annual report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics released Thursday. That's the highest proportion in records going back to 1996, when immigrants accounted for just 10.8 percent of the workforce.

The share has risen steadily over the last six years following a slight dip during the last recession when foreign-born workers suffered disproportionately as the collapse in the housing market took a toll on construction employment. From 1996 to 2016, the entire labor force rose by about 25 million, half of which came from gains among those born outside the U.S., the data show.

The report defines foreign born workers as individuals who reside in the U.S. but were born outside the country to parents who were not American citizens. It doesn't distinguish between legally admitted immigrants, refugees, temporary residents, and undocumented immigrants.

The figures surface as the Trump administration's immigration proposals -- the construction of a wall on the southern border, a travel ban on citizens of six mostly Muslim countries, and a threat to withhold funding from jurisdictions that don't cooperate with federal immigration authorities -- face legal challenges and resistance among some lawmakers in Congress.

The White House also issued guidelines in March to make it harder for corporations to bring foreign technology workers to the U.S. through the high-skilled H-1B visa program."..."

RECORD FEW AMERICANS BELIEVE BIBLE IS LITERAL WORD OF GOD

May 17, 2017 Gallup.com reported: "Fewer than one in four Americans (24%) now believe the Bible is 'the actual word of God, and is to be taken literally, word for word,' similar to the 26% who view it as 'a book of fables, legends, history and moral precepts recorded by man.'

This is the first time in Gallup's four-decade trend that biblical literalism has not surpassed biblical skepticism. Meanwhile, about half of Americans — a proportion largely unchanged over the years — fall in the middle, saying the Bible is the inspired word of God but that not all of it should be taken literally.

From the mid-1970s through 1984, close to 40% of Americans considered the Bible the literal word of God, but this has been declining ever since, along with a shrinking percentage of self-identified Christians in the U.S. Meanwhile, the percentage defining the Bible as mere stories has doubled, with much of that change occurring in the past three years.

Still, while biblical literalism has waned, the vast majority of Americans — 71% — continue to view the Bible as a holy document, believing it is at least God-inspired if not God's own words. The latest results are based on Gallup's annual Values and Beliefs poll, conducted May 3-7."

CHRISTIAN PASTOR IN BIBLE BELT ADMITS PERSONALLY WORSHIPPING ALLAH

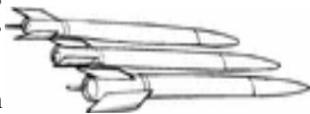
May 16, 2017 World Net Daily reported: "A former church has been taken over and converted to a mosque in a rural North Carolina county, and a group of Christian pastors took part in the conversion ceremony in an effort to 'show mutual respect' for their Muslim neighbors. Crosses have been removed from the former church's facade and steeple, and mosque leader Ali Muhammad turned them over to the group of pastors.

'What they were attempting to do is honor our tradition and so they wanted to turn the crosses over to us,' said the Rev. Jim Melnyk, pastor of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Smithfield, a small town in Johnston County about 45 minutes south of Raleigh. 'They were reaching out to us, and we were reaching out to them.'

Melnyk said he was joined by pastors from the United Methodist Church, United Church of Christ and three different Baptist congregations at Saturday's ceremony, which marked the official conversion of a former Pentecostal church into a mosque. One lay person from the local Presbyterian Church was also present for the 'celebration.'..."

EXPERTS: NORTH KOREA 'STEP' CLOSER TO STRIKING THE CONTINENTAL US

May 16, 2017 voanews.com reported: "North Korea's latest missile launch suggests a major step forward in Kim Jong Un's quest to develop a nuclear tipped intercontinental ballistic missile that could strike the U.S. mainland, analysts say."



Pyongyang claimed on Monday that the missile it fired over the weekend was a 'new ground-to-ground medium long-range strategic ballistic rocket' capable of carrying 'a large, heavy nuclear warhead.'

The missile, dubbed the Hwasong-12, was launched at a high trajectory on Sunday, reaching an altitude of 2,111.5 kilometers and traveling 787 kilometers before landing in the sea near Russia, the North's official news agency KCNA reported.

'The test-fire proved to the full all the technical specifications of the rocket,' KCNA said. 'It also verified the homing feature of the warhead under the worst re-entry situation and accurate performance of the detonation system.'

South Korea's military, however, minimized the Kim regime's claim of technical progress in re-entry technology, which, if successful, allows a warhead to reach its target without burning up while re-entering the atmosphere. The military said that although more analysis is required to verify the North Korean claim, "we believe the possibility of that is low."

North Korea has made no secret of its desire to develop an ICBM capable of delivering a nuclear warhead to the U.S. mainland..."..."

CHINA DECRIES PROTECTIONISM, BUT SOME RAISE CONCERNS

May 15, 2017 AFP reported: "President Xi Jinping criticised protectionism on Monday at a summit positioning China as a champion of globalisation, and secured a free trade commitment from almost 30 other world leaders as the meeting wound up. Xi addressed the leaders on the second day of the forum on his new Silk Road plan, a huge infrastructure project intended to revive ancient land and sea trade routes from Asia to Europe and Africa."

"Globalisation is encountering some headwinds," Xi told leaders from countries ranging from Spain to Turkey, Russia and Pakistan at a convention centre near the Great Wall on the outskirts of Beijing.

"We need to seek results through greater openness and cooperation, avoid fragmentation, refrain from setting inhibitive thresholds for cooperation or pursuing exclusive arrangements, and reject protectionism."

He compared countries to "swan and geese" that can "fly long and safely through winds and storms because they move in tandem and help each other as a team".

The international gathering was called to promote Xi's signature foreign policy project, the One Belt, One Road initiative as the new Silk Road project is known. He later announced that the two-day summit reached "broad consensus" on the project and that China would host another forum in 2019. Participants in a joint communique declared: "We reaffirm our shared commitment to build open economy, ensure free and inclusive trade, (and) oppose all forms of protectionism, including in the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative", according to the official Xinhua news agency."..."

NORTH KOREA: WE TESTED MISSILE CARRYING LARGE NUCLEAR WARHEAD

May 15, 2017 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "North Korea on Monday (local time) provided details about its latest ballistic missile test. The country said it had successfully conducted a mid-to-long range missile test, which was aimed at verifying the capability to carry a 'large scale heavy nuclear warhead', Reuters reported, citing North Korea's official KCNA news agency."

According to the report, the missile was launched at the highest angle so as not to affect the security of neighboring countries and flew 787 kilometers (490 miles) reaching an altitude of 2,111.5 kilometers (1,312.03 miles).

The test was personally supervised by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, KCNA noted. It was the latest provocation from North Korea, which has repeatedly conducted nuclear and missile tests in violation of UN sanctions..."

SON OF OSAMA BIN LADEN CALLS FOR ATTACKS ON JEWISH TARGETS

May 14, 2017 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "The son of Osama bin Laden called on Muslims and followers of al-Qaida to carry out attacks on Jewish targets around the world. Hamza bin Laden in a 10-minute video released over the weekend calls on Muslims in 'America, the West and occupied Palestine' to carry out the attacks where they are."

The video includes clips of terror attacks that have been perpetrated around the world, including some from Israel. Hazma bin Laden said it is not necessary to travel to Syria and join the Islamic State. 'Know that inflicting punishment on Jews and crusaders where you are present is more vexing and severe for the enemy,' he reportedly said in the video..."

NORTH KOREA FIRES MISSILE THAT LANDS IN SEA NEAR RUSSIA

May 14, 2017 Reuters reports: "North Korea, defying calls to rein in its weapons program, fired a ballistic missile that landed in the sea near Russia on Sunday, days after a new leader came to power in South Korea pledging to engage Pyongyang in dialogue."

The U.S. military's Pacific Command said it was assessing the type of missile that was fired but it was 'not consistent with an intercontinental ballistic missile'. The U.S. threat assessment has not changed from a national security standpoint, a U.S. official said.

Japanese Defense Minister Tomomi Inada said the missile could be a new type. It flew for 30 minutes before dropping into the sea between North Korea's east coast and Japan. North Korea has consistently test-fired missiles in that direction.

A U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the missile landed 97 km (60 miles) south of Russia's Vladivostok region..."