

Eye on the World

March 18, 2017

This compilation of material for "Eye on the World" is presented as a service to the Churches of God. The views stated in the material are those of the writers or sources quoted by the writers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the members of the Church of God Big Sandy. The following articles were posted at churchofgodbigandy.com for the weekend of March 18, 2017.

Compiled by Dave Havir

Luke 21:34-36—"But take heed to yourselves, lest your souls be weighed down with self-indulgence, and drunkenness, or the anxieties of this life, and that day come on you suddenly, like a falling trap; for it will come on all dwellers on the face of the whole earth. But beware of slumbering; and every moment pray that you may be fully strengthened to escape from all these coming evils, and to take your stand in the presence of the Son of Man" (Weymouth New Testament).



"Eye on the World" comment: Due to the travel schedule of the production staff, this version of "Eye on the World" was completed on March 8. Therefore, this version will obviously focus upon older news stories and older editorials rather than the latest news reports.



An article by Vivian Nereim and Glen Carey titled "Saudi Arabia's Prince Salman Needs to Do These 6 Things to Keep His Kingdom Up and Running" was posted at indiatimes.com on March 7, 2017. Following is the article.

Saudi Arabia's Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has a daunting to-do list as the real work begins on his plan to transform the world's biggest oil exporter into an economy no longer reliant on crude.

"2017 is a reality check," said John Sfakianakis, director of economic research at the Gulf Research Center. "We're done with the announcements. Now it's the teeth that need to show behind the actual plan. The global investor community will be looking at that."

From planning potentially the world's biggest initial public offering to rolling out taxes and protecting Saudis from the impact of spending cutbacks, here are six developments to watch this year:

Shielding the poor

The Citizen's Account is a program meant to soften the impact of austerity measures on low- and middle-income Saudis. It will start with 20 to 25 billion riyals (\$6.7 billion) of disbursements this year, and increase to 60 to 70 billion riyals by 2020.

Registration opened February 1, and more than half of Saudi Arabia's 20 million citizens have already signed up. With the government planning to begin payments later this year, newspapers and social media have reflected the widespread confusion over eligibility. Should Uber drivers report their side income? Can ministers also sign up? What about professional soccer players?

The program goes to the heart of the implied social contract in Saudi Arabia, where the Saud family has traded generous spending on its subjects for absolute loyalty for more than eight decades.

"You have to assume that there will be mistakes," said Crispin Hawes, London-based managing director at Teneo Intelligence. "You just have to make sure they're not so egregious that they dilute the process of political authority."

Saudi Arabia reviewed other countries' experiences and developed plans "aimed at hedging against possible errors," a senior source in the Council of Economic and Development Affairs said in a written statement to Bloomberg, adding that the plans are based on conservative numbers to ensure adequate coverage.

"In case we detected that the program did not cover an entitled category, we will adjust it and pay them retroactively to achieve justice in coverage and support," the source said in the statement.

Taxes

The government is also planning new taxes as it seeks to balance the budget. In April, it will impose an excise tax on "harmful products," doubling the price of tobacco and energy drinks and putting a 50 percent levy on soda.

The new levies are a prelude to a planned 5 percent value-added tax in 2018, which will have an even broader impact on the cost-of-living for Saudi residents. Riyadh-based Jadwa Investment Co. expects inflation to rise toward the end of this year, as Saudis front-load purchases ahead of the new tax.

Subsidy cuts

The government began a multiyear program of gradual reductions to fuel, water and electricity subsidies with a surprise announcement in late 2015, sending Saudis rushing to gasoline stations to fill up.

Energy Minister Khalid Al Falih said in December the next round of cuts will happen before the end of the year. "The intent is to do it soon enough," he said.

Foreigner fees

From July, the government will charge an unprecedented monthly fee for foreign workers with dependents in the kingdom. The levy will increase each year until it reaches 400 riyals per month per dependent by 2020.

While potentially popular among locals—slogans like “Saudi is for Saudis” are spreading on social media as the economy slows—private sector reaction may be more challenging for the government. Large Saudi-owned businesses including the construction conglomerate Saudi Binladin Group “are massively dependent on low-cost foreign labor,” Hawes said.

Stimulus

Introducing the expatriate fee and other measures in a way that doesn’t “choke the economy” will be difficult, Sfakianakis said. Growth slowed to 1.1 percent last year from 3.4 percent in 2015, according to a Bloomberg survey of economists, and will decelerate further to 0.9 percent this year.

The government is responding with a stimulus package of 200 billion riyals through 2020. Commerce Minister Majid Al Qasabi said in December that target areas would be announced within three months.

“The financial reforms are expected to cause some slowdown in economic growth,” the Saudi source said in the statement. “However, the state is working to cushion the slowdown” with higher higher government spending, the settlement of delayed payments to contractors and the easing of export restrictions, among other measures.

“The future of oil should not be taken for granted, so these measures are just necessary,” said Fahad Nazer, a consultant to the Saudi Arabian embassy in Washington, D.C., who does not speak for the government. “Probably in the minds of some people they’re moving too fast, but frankly in the minds of others they should be moving even faster.”

Listing a giant

Much of the groundwork for the 2018 listing of as much as 5 percent of Saudi Arabian Oil Co., known as Aramco, must be done this year. There’s growing debate about the potential market valuation, and a profitable IPO is critical to overhauling the economy; it’s the anchor for a sovereign wealth fund meant to generate enough income to dominate state revenue by 2030.

As with the taxes and subsidy cuts, the IPO carries potential political risks—from foreigners buying a stake in the Saudi economy’s crown jewel to a clear picture of Aramco’s financial health becoming visible for the first time.

The IPO “is not so much the elephant in the room as the entire herd of elephants,” said Hawes at Teneo Intelligence. The government will also have to win the “internal arguments” on why the listing is necessary, he said.

The IPO will be organized “to maximize the economic benefits of the kingdom,” the government source said. “Saudi Arabia will not give up on its majority ownership of Aramco, and will not relinquish the control of it.”

Prince Mohammed’s to-do list “is ambitious but not impossible,” the source said.



An article by Erin Brodwin titled “People Haven’t Set Foot in This Ancient ‘Lost City’ in the Honduran Jungle for 500 Years—Until Now” was posted at businessinsider.com on March 6, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

More than half a millennium after the collapse of the Mayan civilization, the members of a neighboring Central American society suddenly gathered their most sacred belongings, buried them in the center of town, and vanished.

“There’s a big question about who these people were,” the best-selling author Douglas Preston, who visited the remnants of this city, told Business Insider. “What happened to this civilization? Why did they abandon this city so suddenly?”

“It’s hard to believe that in the 21st century a lost city could still be discovered, but that’s exactly what happened,” he said. “People hadn’t touched foot there in 500 years. It’s absolutely true.”

Whoever populated the area deep in Honduras’ Mosquitia Jungle did not leave many clues. The team that visited in 2012 was able to date the remains it uncovered to somewhere between 1000 AD and 1400 AD. That places people in the region after the era of the Mayans, whose civilization stretched from southeastern Mexico across Guatemala and Belize and into the western portions of Honduras and El Salvador.

“They grew up near the Mayans. They took on the pyramids. They laid out their cities in a somewhat Mayan fashion, but not quite,” Preston said. “But it’s very mysterious. There’s so much we don’t know.”

What researchers do know is that whoever lived there disappeared suddenly. In addition to rough remnants of their pyramids and plazas, they left behind a series of intricate stone pieces, including what is thought to be part of a ceremonial seat featuring an effigy of a “were-jaguar.” So far, researchers have identified nearly 500 of the stone pieces.

“At the base of a pyramid we discovered an enormous cache of beautiful stone sculptures,” Preston said. “It appears the people brought their objects, carefully laid them to rest, and then walked out of the city.”

Several archaeologists and anthropologists who were on Preston’s research team believe the people were felled by disease.

“The evidence is very strong that that’s what happened,” Preston said. “These were diseases brought by Europeans, specifically smallpox and measles.”

But it’s unlikely that Europeans ever reached this civilization—at least not in person. Instead, the diseases probably found the indigenous populations by way of trade. As goods exchanged hands, so did viruses. And some of these invaders were foreign illnesses against which the indigenous people had no defense.

“This is a fascinating example of how disease can run way ahead of physical contact,” Preston said. “Even though this valley was never physically threatened by the Spanish, it may have been laid low and completely wiped out by their disease.”



A video and an article by Justin Holcomb titled "Flashback: Obama, Just Like Carson, Paralleled Slaves and Immigrants" were posted at townhall.com on March 8, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

Newly appointed Secretary of Housing Ben Carson sent liberals and the mainstream media into a frenzy on Monday after he compared immigrants to those who came to North America on slave ships.

"That's what America is about, a land of dreams and opportunity. There were other immigrants who came here in the bottom of slave ships, worked even longer, even harder for less. But they too had a dream that one day their sons, daughters, grandsons, granddaughters, great-grandsons, great-granddaughters, might pursue prosperity and happiness in this land," he said.

Samuel L. Jackson wrote in a tweet, "OK!! Ben Carson . . . I Can't? Immigrants? In the bottom of SLAVE SHIPS??!! MUTHAF**** PLEASE!!!" with a racial hashtag.

And as usual, there is another twist to the story.

In 2015, during his remarks at a Naturalization Ceremony at the National Archives and Records Administration, Barack Obama literally made the same claim as Carson.

"Certainly, it wasn't easy for those of African heritage who had not come here voluntarily and yet in their own way were immigrants themselves. There was discrimination and hardship and poverty. But, like you, they no doubt found inspiration in all those who had come before them. And they were able to muster faith that, here in America, they might build a better life and give their children something more," Obama said.



An article by Max Bearak titled "Khizr Khan's Claim That the U.S. Is Restricting His Travel May Be Unraveling" was posted at washingtonpost.com on March 7, 2017. Following are excerpts of the article.

Khizr Khan, the Gold Star father whose impassioned speech at the Democratic National Convention in July called on Americans to reject a ban on Muslims entering the United States, claimed that his "travel privileges are being reviewed" by U.S. authorities, forcing him to cancel a scheduled speech in Toronto.

The announcement on Monday coincided with President Trump's rewritten order to temporarily ban entry of citizens from six Muslim-majority nations to the United States. Khan has been a U.S. citizen for more than 30 years and was born in Pakistan, which is not one of the six nations.

Ramsay Talks, the organizer of the event Khan was to speak at, seemed to take Khan at his word on Monday and included a statement from him in a cancella-

tion post on Facebook. "This turn of events is not just of deep concern to me but to all my fellow Americans who cherish our freedom to travel abroad," said Khan, according to the post. "I have not been given any reason as to why. I am grateful for your support and look forward to visiting Toronto in the near future."

The claim, which does not state which U.S. agency contacted him, immediately raised doubts about how it was possible that a U.S. citizen was being prevented from traveling abroad.

On Tuesday, Bob Ramsay, who runs Ramsay Talks, said he didn't know the specifics of Khan's predicament. "I don't know exactly who conducted the review, but in speaking with Mr. Khan, it was certainly U.S. authorities," Ramsay said. "That's all I know."

As questions about his motivations for making the claim swirl, Khan has refused to elaborate on his initial statement to *The Washington Post* and other publications. A more detailed request for clarification did not receive an immediate response Tuesday afternoon.

It is unclear whether Khan has previously traveled outside the United States since he was naturalized.

U.S. citizens don't need visas to enter Canada, or even the electronic travel authorizations required of all other foreign visitors there. As a general rule, the United States cannot prevent passport-holding citizens from traveling if they have not been charged with a crime.

Public records indicate that Khan has no criminal history, either at the federal level, in Charlottesville, where he lives, or in Silver Spring, his previous place of residence. Furthermore, U.S. Customs and Border Protection told Politico that, as a rule, it does not contact travelers before their trips.

The Canadian Foreign Ministry also denied issuing any review of Khan's ability to travel there.

"We are unaware of any restrictions regarding this traveler," said Camielle Edwards, spokeswoman for Canadian Immigration Minister Ahmed Hussen.

Since the Democratic convention in July, Khan has appeared widely on television and at public events in which he has spoken against the Trump administration and its immigration orders.



An article by Benjamin Zhang titled "United Airlines CEO Explains Why the Boeing 747 Jumbo Jet Will Soon Go Away" was posted at businessinsider.com on March 5, 2017. Following is the article.

In January, United Airlines announced that it will expedite the retirement of its fleet of Boeing 747-400 jumbo jets.

United, one of the last major airlines in the US to operate the venerable icon, will retire its fleet by the end of 2017, one year earlier than previously planned.

This year, the Chicago-based airline will replace the 747 with new twin-engined Boeing 777-300ER airliners that, along with the 787 Dreamliner and the Airbus A350, will serve as the future core of United's long-haul fleet.

Recently, United Airlines CEO Oscar Munoz sat down for a one-on-one interview with Business Insider in which he touched upon a broad spectrum of topics including the fate of his fleet of jumbo jets.

In the interview, Munoz spoke about the practical considerations behind the retirement of the iconic plane known affectionately as the Queen of the Skies as well as the future of the airline's fleet.

Here's an excerpt from that interview:

Benjamin Zhang: Recently, United announced that it would be expediting the retirement of its Boeing 747-400s. What was the thinking behind that, and is it the end of the jumbo jet?

Oscar Munoz: You've got other jumbo jets out there that are being built and that a couple of people are flying. For us, we had dwindled down our fleet of 747s. They were already on a path to becoming obsolete. They have been a grand aircraft for us for a long time, but we have issues with maintenance—parts in particular. If I need a part today, I can't get it. We stripped every airplane in the world of its parts to feed the need, and no one is making new parts for this particular aircraft because there are just not as many out there.

Zhang: With the 747 on the way out, what does the future hold for United's fleet?

Munoz: Every time I get accosted with the issue of the "Queen of the Skies," I say, "Have you met Miss Dreamliner over here?" It doesn't have that grand double-decker look, but that's where [the new Polaris business class] comes into play. The service that you get, the seats that we are working with, that was the decision. We were getting new aircraft that we were going to fly, and we are going to make long-term commitments to flying, and we wanted to start those new routes with aircraft that we are going to be flying into the next generation.



An editorial by Michelle Malkin titled "A Day Without American Tech Workers" was posted at michellemalkin.com on March 8, 2017. Following is the article.

Last month, there was a national "Day Without a Latino." This week, the demonstration du jour shutting down schools and shops is a "Day Without Women."

Here's my question for all the virtue-signaling protesters who pay lip service to better jobs and wages: Where's your awareness-raising event for untold thousands of our country's high-skilled men and women victimized by H-1B visa havoc?

Thanks to cheap labor-hungry big businesses and money-grubbing politicians in both parties, every day has become a "Day Without American Tech Workers."

Our own best and brightest are vanishing in plain sight. It has been going on for decades—and it's all legal. Several court challenges to the corporate abuse of the program have failed.

So last week, the same workplace nightmare that befell American tech employees at Disney, New York Life, Southern California Edison, and countless other U.S. companies struck the University of California, San Francisco.

That's right: H-1B hell has engulfed a taxpayer-subsidized institution smack dab in the middle of the West Coast's liberal paradise. Forty-nine information technology workers at the UC system's health care and research nerve center officially got the boot last week.

I interviewed a group of those workers last fall at a protest organized by American workers' advocate and lawyer Sara Blackwell after they got wind of the impending pink slips. Like the Disney workers and thousands of others before them, UCSF's loyal employees were coerced to dig their own graves: No severance packages unless and until they trained their inexperienced, cheap foreign replacements from India-based HCL Technologies Ltd. by Feb. 28.

Raymond Dy, a UCSF systems administrator, called the severance arrangement a "a big slap in the face." Married with two young kids, and the family's sole breadwinner, he felt he had no choice but to comply.

Assisting the offshore outsourcing of his own job was, Dy put it, "insulting."

It's also a privacy and security threat. Kurt Ho, a 57-year-old systems administrator and lifelong Democrat who voted for Donald Trump, recounted his dealings with "very young" H-1B foreign workers who had trouble comprehending basic instructions on how to operate a premiere university's "mission critical systems."

Dedicated to his job and country, Ho voiced concern about giving away the keys to Americans' health data to unsupervised foreign visa holders and their counterparts overseas.

"This troubles me a lot when I train them. We have to comply with the HIPAA (federal health privacy regulations). As foreigners, they don't have those requirements."

Oh, and you know that precious, left-wing San Francisco value of "diversity"?

It got thrown out the window at UCSF thanks to the H-1B visa replacement racket. Diversity doesn't mean jack if a bleeding heart liberal, Trump-bashing university can avoid paying high-skilled American workers' pensions and benefits.

Audrey Hatten-Milholin, a 53-year-old senior systems architect at UCSF who is black, pierced the university progressives' hypocrisy. "After the election" last November, she told me, the school sent out emails to employees "reassuring people that the university would remain diverse" and committed to "inclusion" as an anti-Trump statement.

Yet, Hatten-Milholin (who served 17 years at UCSF) and many of her female colleagues lost their jobs despite "excellent performance reviews" as part of the school system's short-sighted attempt to "cut costs."

She appreciated the post-election political gesture of supporting diversity, “but on the other hand, it was like, but what are you doing to us? There are not that many women in IT and they’re getting rid of them, the few that are there. Half of them are going to be gone.”

She recounted walking into an office suite to train the HCL foreigners to absorb her knowledge and eliminate her job, “and it seemed like everyone at their desk had a young male Indian worker there. I didn’t see any women.”

President Trump vowed to stop the sabotage of American tech workers and has already put a halt to “fast-tracking” of the visa that an Indian commerce official once dubbed “the outsourcing visa.” But you know the high-dollar H-1B lobbies both here and abroad aren’t going to down without a fight.

If only Bay Area liberals and Beltway Democrats weren’t so acutely addled by Trump Derangement Syndrome, they might actually do something to help the American women and workers they pretend to champion—instead of enabling their sellout.



An editorial by Walter Williams titled “Undermining Academic Achievement” was posted at jewishworldreview.com on March 1, 2017. Following is the article.

U.S. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said in a statement, “The president’s decision to ask Betsy DeVos to run the Department of Education should offend every single American man, woman, and child who has benefited from the public education system in this country.”

Expressing similar sentiments, Congressional Black Caucus Chairman Cedric Richmond said, “I expect that Mrs. DeVos will have an incredibly harmful impact on public education and on black communities nationwide.”

Those and many other criticisms of Department of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos could be dismissed as simply political posturing if we did not have an educational system that is mostly mediocre and is in advanced decay for most black students.

According to *The Nation’s Report Card*, only 37 percent of 12th-graders were proficient in reading in 2015, and just 25 percent were proficient in math (www.nationsreportcard.gov). For black students, achievement levels were a disgrace.

Nationally, 17 percent of black students scored proficient in reading, and 7 percent scored proficient in math. In some cities, such as Detroit, black academic proficiency is worse; among eighth-graders, only 4 percent were proficient in math, and only 7 percent were proficient in reading.

The nation’s high-school graduation rate rose again in the 2014-15 school year, reaching a record high as more than 83 percent of students earned a diploma on time. Educators see this as some kind of achievement and congratulate themselves. The tragedy is that high-school graduation has little relevance to achievement.

In 2014-15, graduation rates at District of Columbia Public Schools, just as they did nationally, climbed to an all-time high. At H.D. Woodson High School, 76 percent of students graduated on time; however, just 1 percent met math standards on national standardized tests linked to the Common Core academic standards. Just 4 percent met the reading standards.

The low black academic achievement is not restricted to high-school graduates of D.C. schools. The average black high-school graduate has the academic achievement level of a white seventh- or eighth-grader.

As such, it stands as unambiguous evidence that high schools confer diplomas attesting that students can read, write and compute at a 12th-grade level when in fact they cannot. That means they have received fraudulent high-school diplomas. There are many factors that affect education that educators cannot control. But they have total control over the issuance of a diploma.

Educators often complain that there's not enough money. Census Bureau data show that as early as 2009-10, Washington, D.C., spent \$29,409 per pupil (tinyurl.com/gp4ht8k). Starker proof that there's little relationship between spending and academic proficiency is in the case of Detroit's public schools. In 2009-10, the nation's elementary and secondary public school systems spent an average of \$10,615 per pupil.

According to the Census Bureau, Detroit schools spent \$12,801 per pupil. The Mackinac Center for Public Policy claims that Detroit actually spent \$15,570 per pupil that year. There's not much payoff for education dollars.

The National Institute for Literacy found that 47 percent of the city's adults are "functionally illiterate." The Nation's Report Card reports that Detroit students score the lowest among the nation's big-city schools, and Washington is not far behind.

I'd ask Sen. Schumer how it would be possible for Secretary of Education DeVos to make education any worse than it is for many Americans.

I'd suggest to Rep. Richmond that if the grand wizard of the Ku Klux Klan were the secretary of education and wanted to sabotage black academic achievement, he couldn't find a better method for doing so than keeping our public school system as it is. Many black politicians and educators would never have their own children attend the rotten, dangerous schools that are so much a part of our big cities. Many black parents, captured by these schools, would like to get their children out.

But that's not in the interest of the education establishment, which wants a monopoly on education.

Black politicians and academics are the establishment's facilitators. That explains their hostility to Betsy DeVos. She would like to give more parents a choice.



An editorial by Walter Williams titled "College Campus Disgrace" was posted at jewishworldreview.com on March 8, 2017. Following is the article.

While college administrators and professors accept disgraceful behavior, we as taxpayers, donors and parents should not foot the bill. Let's look at some of that behavior.

A University of Washington Tacoma Writing Center press release told students that expecting Americans to use proper grammar perpetuates racism. The University of Nebraska Omaha will host a workshop for "anti-racist allies" to develop "action plans" that confront America's "foundation of systemic oppression" in the context of "the current political climate."

The workshop was inspired by professor Tammie Kennedy's recent book, titled "Rhetorics of Whiteness." She will lead a discussion on "taking action against white supremacy."

Black students at the University of Michigan demand campus officials provide them with "a permanent designated space on central campus for Black students and students of color to organize and do social justice work."

Bob Lange is an associate professor emeritus of physics and an adjunct associate professor at Brandeis University's Heller School for Social Policy and Management. He says, "It is not terrorism to kill representatives of a government that you are opposed to."

His remarks were reported by Canary Mission, a group of students who document people and groups who are promoting hatred of the USA, Israel and the Jewish people, particularly on American college campuses. It reports that Lange maintained that the 2012 terrorist attacks on the American diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya—which killed four people and injured 10 others—were "not terrorism."

Orange Coast College suspended Caleb O'Neil for violating an obscure school policy against recording classroom lectures. It's what he recorded that was disturbing to the college administration.

He recorded a human sexuality professor, Olga Perez Stable Cox, spending class time telling her students that Donald Trump's election was an "act of terrorism" because he is a "white supremacist" and Vice President Mike Pence "is one of the most anti-gay humans in this country."

Additionally, the professor asked all of the Trump supporters in the classroom to stand up and be accounted for.

In a relatively rare incidence of the education establishment's doing the right thing, the Coast Community College District's board of trustees overrode the college president and rescinded O'Neil's suspension and other sanctions.

What the board did not do was to sanction Cox for being a thug and bullying her students.

JWR contributor Dennis Prager recently wrote a column titled "Why Professors Object to Being Recorded."

Prager says: "Our colleges and universities (and an increasing number of high schools and elementary schools) have been transformed from educational institutions into indoctrination institutions. With the left-wing takeover of universities, their primary aim has become graduating as many leftists as possible."

He adds: "Most professors objecting to being recorded know on some level that they are persuasive only when their audience is composed largely of very young people just out of high school. They know that if their ideas are exposed to adults, they may be revealed as intellectual lightweights."

These professors know that they are persuasive only when their audience is composed of very young people with minds full of mush. If their ideas are exposed to more mature adults, they will be seen as quacks, hustlers and charlatans.

By the way, I've taught graduate and undergraduate economic theory for 36 years at George Mason University. At the beginning of each semester, I invite students to record my lectures. I have no idea who has listened to the lectures or where the recordings wind up.

But I challenge anyone to find a lecture in which I proselytized students to my political or personal values. While professorial proselytization is accepted at most universities, I believe that to use one's classroom to push one's personal beliefs, particularly on immature students, is both immoral and academic dishonesty.

What's going on at the nation's colleges represents a threat to both liberty and academic excellence. It is a gross dereliction of duty for legislators, donors and decent Americans to allow it to continue.



A Reuters article by Jon Herskovitz titled "African-Americans More Likely to Be Wrongfully Convicted: Study" was posted at reuters.com on March 7, 2017. Following is the article.

African-Americans are far more likely to be wrongfully convicted of crimes such as murder, sexual assault and illegal drug activity than whites due to factors including racial bias and official misconduct, a study released on Tuesday said.

Of the 1,900 defendants convicted of crimes and later exonerated, 47 percent were African-Americans—three times their representation in the population—according to the study from the National Registry of Exonerations, which examined cases from 1989 to October 2016.

The study also said black Americans were about seven times more likely to be wrongfully convicted of murder than white Americans.

"In the murder cases we examined, the rate of official misconduct is considerably higher in cases where the defendant is African-American compared to cases where the defendant is white," said Samuel Gross, a University of Michigan Law School professor who is senior editor of the group that tracks U.S. exonerations.

He said unconscious bias, institutional discrimination and explicit racism, were factors in some of the wrongful convictions.

When it comes to drug crimes, black Americans are about 12 times more likely to be wrongfully convicted than innocent white people, the study said.

A separate study from the same group also released on Tuesday showed that 2016 set a record for known exonerations in the United States since 1989 at 166, up from 160 cases in 2015.

Nearly 60 of exonerations came from Texas, the most of any state, where district attorneys in the counties that include Houston and Dallas have set up integrity units to examine prosecutions for possible problems.

Most of the Texas exonerations were drug convictions in Harris County, home to Houston. In many of the cases, suspects pleaded guilty to drug possession and months or years later, reports from crime labs showed that seized material contained no controlled substances.

Nationwide, 52 defendants were exonerated of murder and 73 were exonerated of non-violent crimes, such as drug possession.

After Texas, Illinois had the most exonerations in 2016 at 16, followed by New York with 14 and California with nine.

Among last year's most notable exonerations were the so-called San Antonio Four—four women convicted of sexual assault in the 1990s and sent to prison because of junk science, tainted testimony and false ideas of lesbian behavior, a Texas appeals court said.



An editorial by John Hawkins titled "10 Examples of 'Hate Crimes' That Turned Out to Be Scams" was posted at townhall.com on March 4, 2017. Following is the article.

We have so many people faking hate crimes that if you assume every one of them is a scam, you'd be right more often than you're wrong. When you combine the liberal desire to get attention for being a victim with the possibility of making serious money on GoFundMe, it creates an enormous incentive to fake it. Add to that the possibility that what you do will be blamed on people you detest for not agreeing with you and there are liberals who are willing to lie.

As you are about to see, there are a lot of them. I'm giving you 10 examples, but the actual number of "hate crimes" revealed to be fake gets up into the hundreds during this same period. Just to show the scope of the problem, I'm only going to use examples from 2015 or later.

■ (1) "The allegation set social media ablaze, sowing shock and outrage as it went: Three black students at the University at Albany had been attacked on a city bus by a group of white men who used racial slurs as other passengers and the driver sat silently by.

"The Jan. 30 episode, reported to the police, would draw hundreds of people to a campus rally against racism; an emotional response from the university's president; and even the attention of Hillary Clinton, who condemned the attack on Twitter . . . Surveillance videos did not support the accounts of the young women, Ms. Burwell, Alexis Briggs and Ariel Agudio. Neither did the statements of multiple fellow passengers. Rather than being victims of a hate crime, the authorities said, the women had been 'the aggressors,' hitting a 19-year-old white woman on the bus.

"All three pleaded not guilty on Monday to misdemeanor assault charges; Ms. Burwell and Ms. Agudio, who publicized the episode through Twitter, also pleaded not guilty to charges of making a false report. The judge who oversaw the arraignment called the charges, if proved, 'shameful.' "

■ (2) "The man behind the bomb threats to various Jewish community centers made repeated statements about hating President Donald Trump.

"The FBI arrested Juan Thompson for making about eight bomb threats to various Jewish community centers, schools and organizations in the country. Thompson, a former journalist at The Intercept and potential communist, has a Twitter page filled with anti-Trump comments . . . Thompson called Trump 'Hitler' in one tweet."

■ (3) "An African-American man in Malden, Massachusetts has now admitted that he fabricated a hate crime report when he claimed two white men accosted him, saying the U.S. is now 'Trump country,' and threatened to lynch him.

"A man in the suburb north of Boston told police on Tuesday that he was accosted by two white men after getting off a Boston mass transit bus near Broadway Square in Malden.

"The complainant, who has remained unidentified, said the men used racial slurs and warned him he would soon be lynched because the U.S. is now 'Trump country.' The man said he ran away and hid, waiting for the men to go away before calling police.

"Malden police immediately prioritized the report as a 'hate crime' and an investigation was opened. But now police are reporting that their investigation revealed a hoax had been committed."

■ (4) "DePaul University recently announced it was investigating multiple reports of hate crimes in the aftermath of Breitbart Tech editor Milo Yiannopoulos' event that took place on campus last week.

"Students claimed that an image of an untied rope laid on the ground was a noose placed on the Lincoln Park campus by a student who was animated by Yiannopoulos' lecture that occurred last week. Students reported the "noose" to campus security, who claimed that they are investigating the incident.

"Before last week's stop of 'The Dangerous F@ggot Tour,' someone vandalized the sidewalk with the words, 'TRUMP 2016 F*CK MEXICO.' Students were quick to complain to DePaul administrators about the message. According to a University press release, the message was difficult to remove because it was written in paint rather than chalk . . . DePaul University president Dennis

Holtschneider commented on the incident and condemned the individual responsible for the vandalism. 'Destruction of property and profanity are never acceptable ways to voice opinions,' Holtschneider wrote in his statement. 'This slur against Mexicans goes against everything DePaul stands for.'

"Peter Myers, a graduate student at DePaul, was arrested by Chicago PD for criminal damage to private property. Myers, who studies 'poverty and inequality' in DePaul's Economics and Mathematics department, participated in several Occupy Chicago protests.

"Shortly after the vandalism, he wrote on Facebook that he 'did the right thing TRUMP 2016 stood up for economic reform and a rigged system the dollar scholar would be proud[.]' "

■ (5) "A student at a Wisconsin college was arrested for defacing his own dorm room door with anti-Muslim graffiti in order to get attention, according to police.

"Officials at Beloit College in Beloit, Wisconsin, were shocked when a student, 20-year-old Michael Kee, reported that anti-Muslim threats appeared on his door and on a wall outside his dorm room. The student told police he felt he was being threatened over his religion and ethnicity.

"Police initially treated the incident as a hate crime, but after an investigation they determined that the student had perpetrated a fraud and painted the graffiti himself, according to WQRF."

■ (6) "Jasskirat Saini was arrested Tuesday by Nassau County Police following an investigation into the drawing swastikas and writing of 'KKK' on a college campus.

"ABC7 reports that the swastikas were first found at Nassau Community College on a men's bathroom on Oct. 15 and later that month several more were found. In December there were two more incidents of swastika graffiti. Nassau County Police found Saini Tuesday writing two swastikas on the exterior of a building and 'KKK' on the floor of another, ABC7 reports.

"Saini is being charged with Aggravated Harassment and according to ABC7 this charge is in connection with 110 anti-Semitic drawings.

"Initial media coverage of the discovery of swastikas tied it to the election of Donald Trump. The Long Island Press wrote, 'Although three of the incidents occurred before Nov. 8, the latest discovery has further troubled minority and Jewish groups amid a surge of hate crimes across the country following the election of Donald Trump.'"

■ (7) "A North Texas man has confessed to his wife that it was he who spray-painted their garage with hateful rhetoric and lit their truck and motorcycle on fire earlier this month.

"Jenny Williams lamented the actions of her husband David on Facebook Dec. 21, saying he confessed to staging the crimes their family awoke to Dec. 12—'N— lover' was cast across their garage in black spray paint and the family's motorcycle and truck were set ablaze, she said in a since-deleted blog

post. In photos on her blog, accessed through a cached version, the family's truck is burned and missing headlights."

■ (8) "A Bowling Green State University official announced Friday that a man's story that he was pushed to the ground, robbed, and called a derogatory slur wasn't true.

"Thomas Gibson, vice president for student affairs and vice provost, sent an email updating students about the investigation. He said filing a false report is a serious offense, but did not elaborate on the incident.

"A man previously said two assailants pushed him to the ground and robbed him about 4 p.m. Tuesday behind the Student Recreation Center. They then called him a derogatory slur, according to a university spokesman."

■ (9) "Police were investigating the burning of an African American church in Mississippi as a hate crime after graffiti reading 'vote Trump' was found spray painted on an outside wall. But now authorities have reported that a black man has been arrested for the crime and race hate has been abandoned as a motive."

■ (10) "The Muslim charged with arson of his own mosque on Christmas Day 2015 has pleaded guilty to felony arson in a Harris County (Houston) district court and was sentenced to prison.

"The charging instrument stated that Gary Nathaniel Moore started a fire with the intent to destroy and damage a place of worship—the Savoy Masjid Mosque in Houston. Moore said he attended the mosque every day up to five times a day for five years. The Houston Fire Department (HFD) responded to the fire about 2:47 p.m. on Christmas Day.

"Breitbart News reported that 'up in smoke is the DC Media's hoped-for anti-GOP Narrative. Before any facts were known, numerous DC Media outlets immediately exploited the tragedy to place the blame on Donald Trump.' As reported by Breitbart Texas, Breitbart News accurately predicted that the DC media would lose interest in the story 'Now that a devout Muslim has been charged.' "



Isaiah 55:6-11—"Seek you the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. 'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,' says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."