



**GOD'S NEWS ..BEHIND THE NEWS**  
RAY BRUBAKER - COMMENTATOR  
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# Introduction

“The Los Angeles Earthquake...is a prelude of things to come!” That’s the fear expressed by Dean Richard H. Jahns, who is president of the Geological Society of America.

Five days before the Los Angeles quake, Dean Jahns had predicted: “A great earthquake will devastate some portion of California before the century is out.” He attributed the relatively few deaths to the fact that the quake struck at 6 a.m., before school and business hours.

What of the future? “A major earthquake is definitely in the cards for California.” At least, that’s the verdict of Dean Jahns.

Out of concern for the people of California, and with a Bible-based report of what’s ahead for the whole world, this booklet has been written.

Ray M. Brubaker, Director  
God’s News Behind the News

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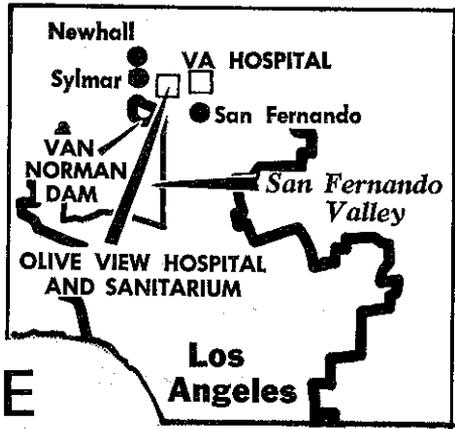
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# THE 1971 *Los Angeles* EARTHQUAKE



*In the rubble of the VA Hospital, the quake took its heaviest toll.*

—Photograph by Charles D'Kear

# *Quake Shocks Los Angeles Area And Leaves Death and Destruction*

It was a lovely February morning when the Rev. Edward McHugh was taking a morning stroll. He was walking from one building to another while gazing upon the silhouette of the San Gabriel Mountains jutting black against the lightening blackness of the early-morning sky when suddenly there was that terrible rumbling noise and shaking of Mother Earth.

"I was slammed off my feet," he recounted, "and when I looked back at the building I had nearly entered, it was piles of bricks, of rubble."

The Rev. McHugh said he figured it was an earthquake, or possibly an explosion!

Another survivor of that quake, Joseph Hill, said he thought the world was ending, or that another war had started.

It so happened that on the morning of the tremor, the Structural Engineering Association of Southern California had a meeting scheduled. Their subject - Earthquakes and the updating of state laws providing for safety standards for older buildings. The meeting was postponed by an earthquake.

The Bible has something to say about Earthquakes with the most devastating ever to hit our world still future.

When our Lord was nailed to a cross on Golgotha's Hill, there was a tremendous earthquake. It was witnessing this earthquake, when the sky grew dark, that the Centurion and those that were with him feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God!

As an Earthquake shrouded the death of Christ bringing fear and trembling to those who watched, so an earthquake later shook the sepulchre on that resurrection morn when Christ arose. For again we read, "Behold there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it....and for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men." Matt. 28:2-4.

And, our Lord gave as one of the Endtime signs of His coming....EARTHQUAKES in divers places!

There have been tremendous earthquakes - the most disastrous occurring in China on Jan. 24, 1556 in which an estimated 830,000 persons lost their lives.

But reading the Bible - What's Ahead! We may have to agree, as the saying goes, "We ain't seen nothing yet!"

Now, it was the prophet Nahum, the Elkoshite, who sees a vision of the coming of the Lord, saying: "The mountains quake at him, and the hills melt, and the earth is burned at his presence, yea, the world, and all that dwell therein. Who can stand before his indignation? And who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? his fury is poured out like fire and the ROCKS are thrown down by him. The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him." (Nahum 1:5)

The Prophet Joel likewise describes an earthquake in relation to the coming of the Lord, saying: "The earth shall quake...the heavens shall tremble; the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining: And the Lord shall utter his voice before his army...for the day of the Lord is great and very terrible; and who can abide it? Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your heart and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness..." 2:10-13

How we need this message!

It's not the destruction of property nor the loss of life that is of greatest concern, but the thought of millions perishing, going into eternity without hope of salvation, that produces anguish of soul. Jesus said, "Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul; but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell!" Mt. 10:28

It is not only the thought of the violent shaking of this earth with the falling debris bringing death to multitudes, but the realization that many in future earthquakes will die unprepared to meet God!

To acquaint you with some of the earthquakes forecast for the future, we would refer again to some of the Bible prophecies...

Revelation 6, where a description is given of what we believe is the coming great tribulation period when a super dictator whom we call the 'antichrist' shall rule, followed by war, famine, pestilence and death that will affect one fourth of the earth's population. It is following this that we read, "...and lo, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; and the stars of heaven fell upon the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs when she is shaken of a mighty wind." As a result we are told..."every mountain and island were moved out of their places." (Rev. 6:12-14)

Did you hear it?

Again we read in Rev. 16:18 of a powerful and violent earthquake that is coming that will level mountains and cause islands to disappear. Notice, "...and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great."

Now, listen. If you have ever driven through mountainous country like Pennsylvania or Wisconsin and have followed the terrain, you know it once endured a tremendous volcanic-type upheaval to form those mountains which are thousands of feet high. In this coming earthquake described here, those mountains will be leveled - they will disappear and become like plains. For we read as a result of this tremendous earthquake, "the mountains were not found."

Finally, reference in the Scripture is made concerning Jerusalem which also will be affected by a future earthquake that will shake that city in the days when God's two witnesses will prophesy for a period of 3 1/2 years. Men will reject their prophecy for they call for the people to repent, and they finally will end up by killing these two men. And the Bible relates how the whole world will see the dead bodies of these two witnesses of Almighty God, so the Scriptures had to foresee television. How else could this be possible?

During this exhibition, for 3 1/2 days the people will make merry, and will distribute gifts as we do at Christmas time. Then suddenly the Spirit of life from God enters into them, and a cloud catches them away into heaven. And at the same hour there was a GREAT EARTHQUAKE, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand..." (Rev. 11:13)

Now here's a description of a future earthquake that has never yet occurred and we know in advance how many will be killed. It will take place in Jerusalem and 7000 will die.

We can recall the most violent of earthquakes in Alaska in March of 1964 that registered 8.5 on the Richter scale and killed 131 persons. Back in April of 1906 the earthquake that hit San Francisco caused the death of 700 persons. But here's a quake in Jerusalem that will have a death toll of 7000, according to a forecast from the Bible. And I dare believe some will be on earth to hear the news and read the headlines of that event when 7000 will die in Jerusalem because of an earthquake.

Zechariah describes an earthquake coming to Jerusalem at the time when Christ shall appear for we read: "And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

What a vivid description of a future earthquake that has not happened as yet but which will come to the region around the Mount of Olives. We are told there is evidence already of this coming earthquake.

Zechariah, writing to Israelites, warns them, saying: "Ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains...yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziyah, king of Judah; and the LORD MY GOD SHALL COME, AND ALL THE SAINTS WITH THEE." (Zech. 14:4-5)

What tremendous prophecy wrapped up in this study of EARTHQUAKES. Those who scoff at Christ's forecast of EARTHQUAKES as a sign of His Coming do not know that the violent shaking of the earth is a major indication that our Lord's return hastens.

You may not be aware of it but our earth is beginning already to shake more violently. Seismologists tell us as many as 5 million earthquakes occur each year! Around 700 of these quakes are of sufficient size to cause destruction in some part of the world! Already more than 900,000 have been killed in earthquakes just in this century with property damage calculated at more than 10 billions of dollars.

Some may be wondering - Where can we hide? Our buildings are not safe in view of this forecast of coming earthquakes. Perhaps a house trailer or a tent may be the safest place in a time of such storms.

The Olive View Hospital and Sanitarium which was 'totally destroyed' during this most recent quake in California was a new facility that was declared "earthquake-proof." Like the Titanic that was unsinkable, so this 'earthquake-proof' 23-million dollar facility suffered destruction.

Beloved, the only hiding place is in Christ. Although we are not promised shelter in a time of storm He is our only sure haven - a rock of safety that cannot be shaken though all hell be moved.

Did you notice, following the earthquake that hits Jerusalem we have a description of Christ coming to this earth with his saints. Now, there are some who believe that Christ cannot come for his saints until after the tribulation. But, in order for Christ to come with his saints here, it seems as though the rapture will have to occur sometime before this event when he comes for his saints - those who love Christ and are living holy lives!

What a message we have to proclaim! And if we will pray for our Lord to come we will be doing what he told us to do - to pray, "Come quickly, Lord Jesus."

For remember, he hath said, "Be ye therefore ready, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh!"

# EARTHQUAKES!



The Caribbean has its hurricanes, and California its earthquakes. Although there are thousands of earth tremors every year, only about 500 can actually be felt by the average person, and only one in 10,000 actually causes damage. Nevertheless, approximately 90% of all earthquakes occur in California which may help explain the great concern for this quake-ridden area.

Scientists at California's Institute of Technology in Pasadena several years ago sought to relieve the fears of those living in this area by releasing the following statement: "Wild predictions of disastrous earthquakes... are not supported by scientific evidence and are frightening many Californians needlessly." On the other hand, the New York Times magazine points out - "If scientists cannot predict when an earthquake will strike, they cannot predict when one won't strike either."

On a Chicago TV talk show a couple of years ago, Curt Gentry appeared to read from passages of his book which was purely fictional, entitled: "The Last Days of the Late Great State of California." Even though it was explained repeatedly on the program that this was a mere fictional account of what could happen, the newspaper switchboards were flooded with calls from worried TV viewers seeking reassurance that California was still with us.

That California and the West Coast could suffer from a major earthquake that could take a million lives remains an ever present threat.

TIME magazine (2/22/71) reports the most recent earthquake in California placed greater strain on the area and that "most scientists are convinced that the stored-up energy must eventually be freed."

Notes this magazine: "That would cause a far more powerful quake than Michigan Physicist Peter Franken gloomily predicts could - if it struck in a populated area like Los Angeles or San Francisco - injure and kill tens of thousands of people."

When will such an earthquake come? "Tomorrow or in a hundred years," says Geophysicist Clarence Allen.

Following the Los Angeles earthquake, warning was given that a major quake could still come at any time which could affect California's population centers.

Charles Archambeau of the California Institute of Technology reports that a fault running from San Bernardino to the Northwest corner of Los Angeles County "is building an extremely high stress field and should go any time between tomorrow and the next twenty or thirty years."

NEWSWEEK magazine notes: "The most disturbing thing about" (the Los Angeles quake) is the probability that "sometime in the not-too-distant future, somewhere along the Californian coast, the same thing is going to happen again - only worse!"

Did you hear it?

This is the report of geophysicists based upon facts that are known, and not the statement issued by soothsayers or professed prophets. For that reason we would expect there are those who would take heed to the warnings being issued which would spare countless lives in a future catastrophe.

Incidentally, just a few days before the February quake, a Commerce Department expert released a report suggesting that this year of 1971 might be a likely susceptible year for such an earthquake as hit the Los Angeles area.

Just what was it like during the recent California quake? In the stricken area, even in the soundest homes, refrigerators toppled, books flew from their cases, windows shattered. One homeowner described the tremor's results by saying: "It was like someone had taken a vacuum cleaner and sucked everything out of the cupboards." People were killed in their beds by falling beams, and on the highways some were killed by a collapsing overpass. Those with swimming pools reported water flooding their homes which led some to believe a nearby dam had broken. At least nine deaths were attributed simply to fear as their frightened hearts stopped beating. A description of those who came seeking shelter and food at a Red Cross facility was given by Arthur Uslan who observed: "All you saw was the fear on people's faces like they were just bombed out. No one spoke."

Declared Uslan, "Some people sat in their cars, afraid to walk, because they thought the ground might swallow them up, afraid to eat because they were throwing up, afraid to sleep because they thought they were going to die."

Now the reason we refer to this most recent episode is to show how devastating, and how destructive an earthquake can be, and to note the fear it produces. Those who have not witnessed earth tremors do not have the faintest idea of what happens in an earthquake.

My friends, this should cause a lot of people to start thinking especially when it is realized that the recent earthquake is just a glimpse of what is forecast for the Endtime. Our Lord referred to earthquakes in divers places as marking the beginning of sorrows that will result in the greatest catastrophes this world has ever seen. Already in almost every part of the world there are constant reports of devastating earthquakes - reports which appear as small items in such papers as the New York Times but may not be reported in your local newspapers because of the frequency of their occurrence.

As a matter of fact, a warning has been issued by the United Nations stating, "At any time" mankind could suffer history's most disastrous earthquake - a tragedy that might cost up to a million lives. Remember, this is a report issued from the United Nations which states: "As populations soar and millions vacate the land to seek work in bulging cities, the stage is being set for tragedy." The earth's molten core could give a gigantic heave and send "cities tumbling" according to this UN report. In view of the avalanche of recent earthquakes, it is a race against time to acquire more knowledge about earth tremors and \$1.5 million was approved for such a study.

The Bible describes earthquakes coming in the Endtime (which we refer to as the 'great tribulation') so powerful they will level mountains, and the isles of the sea shall disappear. These are facts recorded in the Word of God not to frighten anyone, but to give ample warning as to what lies ahead, and to make such preparation as to be ready to meet God or face any crises without fear! Beloved, only the Christian who knows God's Plan for this Age can be truly alerted and prepared to face the realities of coming destruction.

In California, where the threat of a devastating earthquake increases, Prof. Franken of the University of Michigan observes residents "are doing pathetically little about it."

One reason such precautions are being ignored, Prof. Franken feels, is that any emphasis on the probability of such a catastrophe "could have a traumatic effect on California's economy, especially with regard to real estate and industrial activity."

When a San Francisco newspaper ran a front-page story on earthquakes more than a thousand calls flooded the switchboard in a single day indicating concern and interest. But few have actually fled the area. Those who have gone are largely members of Pentecostal-type churches who claim revelations have warned them to leave the area. Several congregations in the Los Angeles area have already sold their homes and moved to Georgia, Missouri or Tennessee.

While it is true that the coming of Christ is largely believed and accepted by many of the Bible-believing churches, it is likewise true that the same carelessness prevails, the same indifference is in evidence, the same lack of concern is seen, so that instead of being aroused and ready for our Lord's coming, Christians are largely complacent and unprepared. This is a Laodicean age which finds many of those who profess to be followers of Jesus Christ "lukewarm" when we should be on fire for God, zealous to win others from the threat of coming awful great tribulation, and anxious to meet the Lord.

Indeed, it will be a sad day when Christ returns and multitudes who expected to be ready are left behind to go through earth's darkest day when devastating earthquakes will occur. Old Mother Earth will tremble and shake like a dog seeking to rid itself of its fleas. All over the world buildings will tumble, skyscrapers will crumble, in the day when the Bible says earthquakes will be so powerful they will level mountains.

When the disciples showed Jesus the beautiful buildings of the temple all our Lord could see was the temple's future destruction. He replied: "Verily I say unto you, There shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down." (Matt. 25:2)

Similarly, we may be so close to Christ's coming that it is foolish to invest our money in buildings soon to crumble. Better to put our money to missionary endeavor, into messages of warning the people of what's ahead!

May God help us to wake up!

It was after our Lord related the parable of the fig tree, which we believe symbolizes Israel's re-establishment as a nation, that He warned - "This generation shall not pass until all these things be done."

In other words, with Israel back in her land here is ample warning that His coming is at hand, and the tribulation judgments are just around the corner.

Then our Lord goes on to say: "But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in Heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take ye heed, watch and pray! for ye know not when the time is!"

Did you hear it?

How alert and awake we should be! In view of prophetic events which we are witnessing today, we should do all we can to sound forth this message, and be prepared ourselves to meet the Lord when He comes.

As earthquakes are uncertain so is the day of Christ's return uncertain.

As Paul says, "The day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night!

Martin Luther once noted: "Christ designed that the day of His coming should be hid from us, that being in suspense, we might be as it were upon the watch!"

George Getze, in the Los Angeles Times, points out that neither seismologists or geophysicists can predict when an earthquake will take place, not the day nor the hour...so the Bible reminds us we cannot know the day nor the hour when Christ will come to catch away His waiting saints - those who are ready to meet Him.

Dr. R.A. Torrey has written: "In much of our modern preaching we urge people to live holily and work diligently because death is swiftly coming." But that, (he notes) is never the Bible argument. The Bible argument always is, Christ is coming! Be ready when He comes!

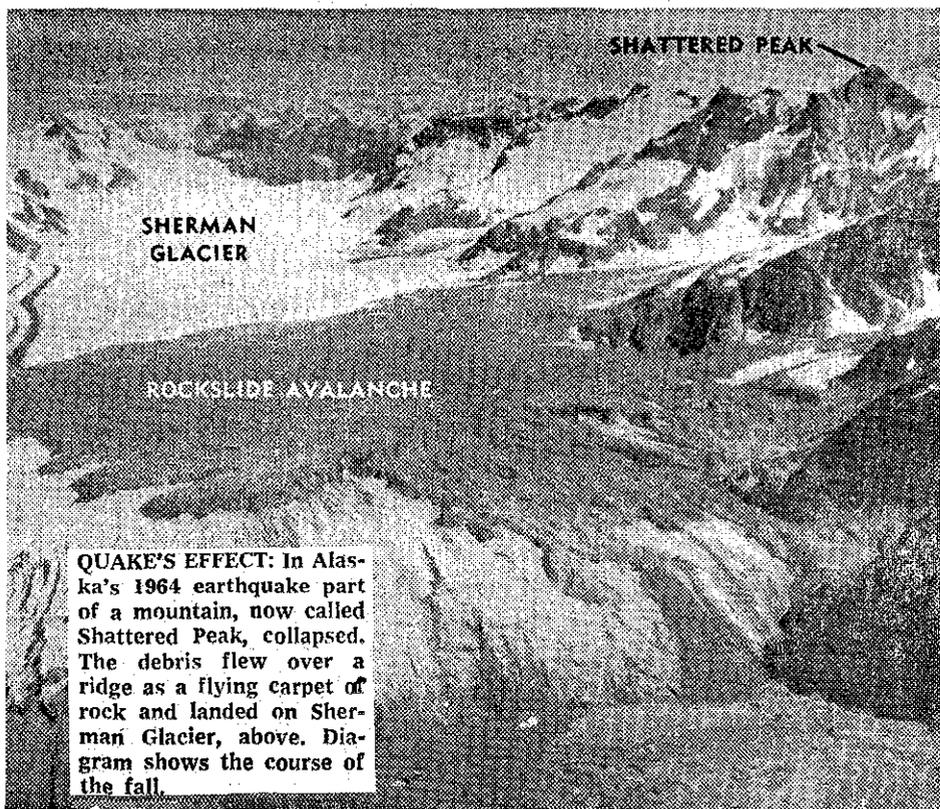
Many may inquire, "What constitutes readiness for our Lord's coming?" Torrey, an associate of the evangelist Dwight L. Moody, answers; "Separation from the world's indulgence of the flesh, from the world's immersion in the affairs of this life, and intense, daily earnestness in prayer - is the first part of preparation for the Lord's return."

O, may we heed this message today and trust the Lord that we are prepared for any and all eventualities. Whether earthquakes come, or accidents befall us, or Christ returns, the most solemn responsibility falls upon each of us to be ready! Right now surrender your all to Jesus Christ. Seek the control of His Holy Spirit in your life by yielding your life completely over to Him that He may fill you with His presence. Instead of fear there will be love; instead of worry, there will be peace; instead of dread there will be longing to meet Him who said - "I will come again and receive you unto myself that where I am there ye may be also."

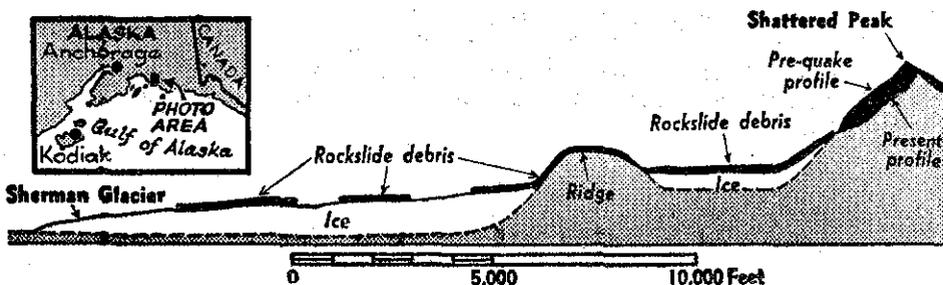
Together, let's live for Christ, anxiously awaiting His soon return, and remembering He hath said: "Be ye ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh!"

# When Earthquake Hits

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1969



Austin Post, United States Geological Survey



Nicolo Difilipantonio, along with 200 others staying at the Midnight Rescue Mission along downtown Los Angeles' Skid Row, fled into the street the morning the earthquake struck and was killed by chunks of roofing that fell on to the street.

Some ten million Californians were jolted by the tremor which many fear is only a warning of what's ahead - on a more gigantic scale.

As we reported in our last broadcast the United Nations has warned of the possibility of a future earthquake that could take a million lives, so the Bible warns of coming powerful quakes that will level mountains.

For an example, take the Alaskan earthquake of March 27, 1964. Did you know part of a mountain actually divided and flew through the air for several miles, jumping over a 450-foot-high peak something like a ski jump - a flying carpet of rock and floating debris! And did you know - swimming pools as far away as Texas, and virtually every deep well in Florida was affected by this Good Friday quake in Alaska in March of 1964? In Texas, swimming pools sloshed back and forth, and some were partially emptied as a result of the quake in Alaska. Florida, the most distant state from the quake, found every deep well affected. At Perry, Florida, 17-foot fluctuations in the water level were recorded.

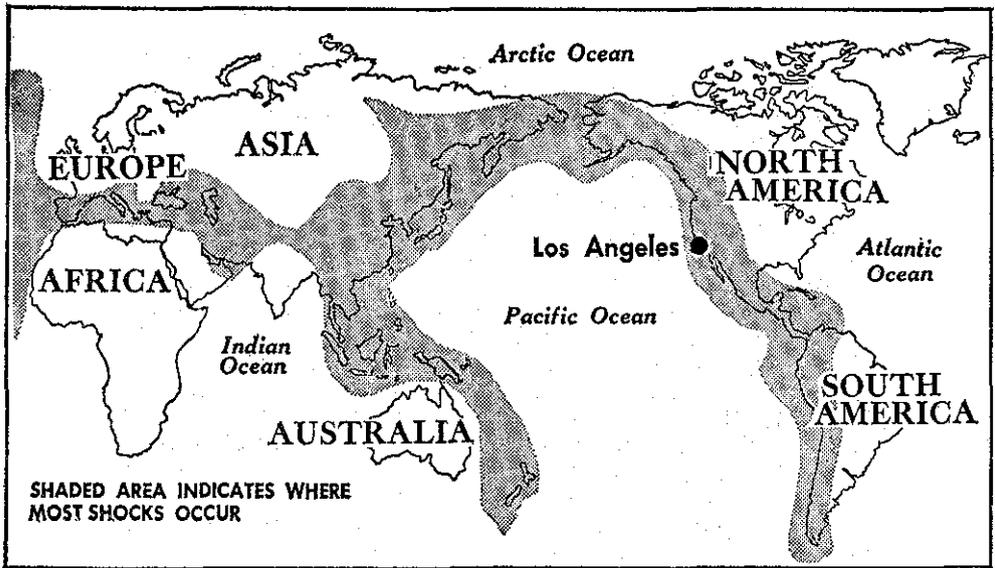
Likewise, according to this Science report in the New York Times of February 16, 1969, it is stated as a result of that quake in Alaska, the wells in Australia, Africa and Eurasia were affected as the water pumped up and down in response to some of the most severe and intense tremors of modern times.

So you see the effects of an earthquake can be felt thousands of miles away! The sloshing of water in lakes and streams in the Southeastern part of the United States, along with the effect on the groundwater level, indicates something of the magnitude of an earthquake.

What will it be like when the Lord comes in judgment when He will 'shake terribly the earth'? (Isa. 2:19-21) Again we read in the 13th chapter, "Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall move out of her place!"

Did you hear it? In chapter 24, the earth is described in the day when God is going to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their sins. If you think we are going to get away with our sins listen to this!

"Behold, the Lord maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, the earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore HATH THE CURSE DEVoured THE EARTH..."



Now listen to this... "The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard..."

That is what already is beginning to happen. It is known that our earth has already developed a 'wobble' - an unsteady motion which has developed as a result of a shift in the earth's axis as it spins. This uneven rotation that has developed is believed by some experts to help trigger earthquakes. On the other hand, there is the possibility that man's use of atomic explosives and blasting of rockets off the earth into space could likewise affect the earth's rotation and help cause this condition now prevailing. It has long been thought that the earth goes through a seven-year cycle of variations in its axis of spin. During the peak, the North Pole may shift as much as six inches in a single day.

Charles A. Whitten, of the National Ocean Survey has noted an uncanny correlation between the degree of earthquake activity and this shift in the earth's axis of spin. This is known as the CHANDLER WOBBLE. Whitten not only has discovered that this wobble became in evidence in the past twenty years, but that in this year of 1971, the Chandler Wobble is at its peak!

Calling attention to recent earthquakes, a British evangelical publication notes that unless man repents - "soon God will intervene with catastrophic judgments, and when He does, the whole world will tremble." He particularly points out - "If Britain and America do not repent soon in sackcloth and ashes, there will be an outpouring of Divine wrath unparalleled in the history of these two nations."

Witnessing today, God has no choice but to bring destruction upon us. As Isaiah declares - For transgressing the laws, particularly those referring to adultery with related acts of perversion, immorality, abortion, God is going to allow this earth to be destroyed just as surely as Sodom and Gomorrah which the Bible says are examples of what will happen to those who afterward live ungodly. So if that is what you want, then go on living for the devil, live it up with wine, women and song! Pay day is coming! Judgment day is verily at hand!

Paul and Betty More, who went through the recent California earthquake, also experienced a rampaging brush fire which almost took their home some years ago. Having gone through this recent earthquake, Mr. More reflected: "If hell is worse than this, I sure don't want it!"

My friends, the only way God is going to wake some of us up is to allow storms, devastating hurricanes and earth-shaking calamities to come upon us. Even Christians are going to have to learn that God is calling us to holy living in view of Christ's soon coming! If lukewarm or Laodicean in our profession, God will 'spue us out' into the chastening tribulation judgment unless we repent!

It is of special interest to note the observation of scientists that our earth goes through a seven-year cycle of variations in its axis of spin. Seven years is also the length of the tribulation period that will find woes and the wrath of God poured out upon this earth without parallel.

Again, may I read from Isaiah, Chapter 24, "Fear, and the pit, and the snare, are upon thee, O inhabitants of the earth." Notice, three things are in store for this world. First, FEAR. President F.D. Roosevelt once said we have nothing to fear but fear itself! But on account of dreadful calamities seen coming upon the world, our Lord told us - as His coming drew nearer, that "men's hearts would fail them for FEAR, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth; for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh!" (Luke 21:26-28)

The after shocks which followed the California earthquake found little children crying and screaming with nearly 400 from the ages of 4 to 14 attending therapy sessions at a Child Guidance Clinic. Why? Because they were afraid, refusing to go to school, or to sleep in their own beds, or leave their mothers' side.

Fear hath torment - the Bible says! But Jesus says, when calamities are seen coming upon the earth and the powers of Heaven are shaken...LOOK UP, and LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, for your Redemption draweth nigh! Naturally, we don't like storms, or tragedies of destruction, but if we are trusting the Lord to watch over and protect us He will do it, or He will give us the grace to endure suffering and trial.

How sad for those who do not know the Lord's provision of grace to sustain them in life's perplexing situations, and amidst the awful trials of life. No wonder many give up, or become fearful and afraid. But if you'll truly give yourself to the Lord to watch over you each day He will do it. Every morning you should pray - "Lord, guide me and protect me today and help me to live for you!"

Yes, Isaiah notes the day that is coming when FEAR, the PIT, and the SNARE will be upon all the inhabitants of the earth!

In the Revelation we have described the 'bottomless pit' which is the abode of Satan when he will no longer deceive the nations but be bound for a thousand years. Afterward, he will be loosed for a little while and those who will be living on earth during the millennial reign of Christ will be tested, and those who identify with Satan will be cast alive with all murderers, fornicators and unbelievers into the lake of fire and brimstone, which is the second death.

Oh, hear me! There is not only fearful devastation and destruction forecast for this world, but the end is the PIT, eternal separation from God in the awful darkness of an eternal night. It is a bottomless pit like falling through space and going nowhere, separated forever from loved ones, and suffering the pangs of the damned. No wonder Jesus said, "Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul; but rather fear him which is able to kill both soul and body in hell." Mt. 10:28

We don't like to hear about hell; nevertheless, it is in the Bible and we are told we can escape hell and gain Heaven by repenting of our sins to trust the Saviour.

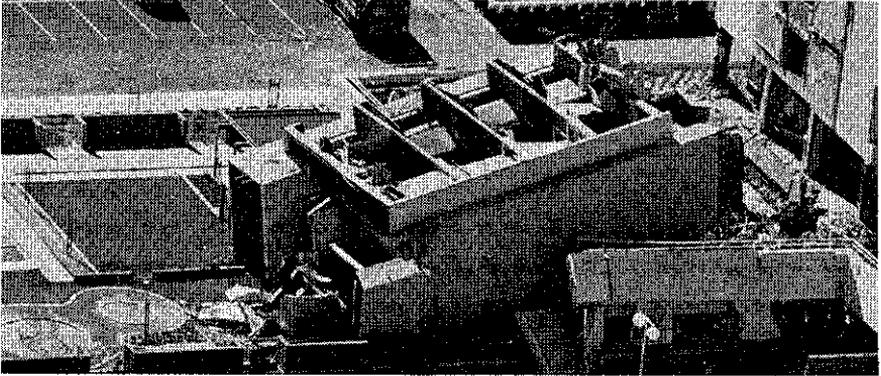
Repeating Isaiah's warning - "Fear, the Pit, and the Snare are upon thee, O inhabitants of the earth!"

Our Lord told of the coming awful tribulation when cataclysmic judgments would affect the sun, moon and stars, and upon the earth there would be distress of nations with perplexity. And then he warns: "Take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a SNARE shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth." Fear, followed by the Pit with its awful plagues and fiery death. And, now we're reminded of the snare that finds many unprepared for our Lord's coming, occupied with surfeiting and drunkenness, or simply involved in the cares of this life, and that comes unawares! As a trap is sprung so will Christ's coming be. Those who are ready will be ushered into the presence of the Lord and the door will be shut. Thus we are told, Watch ye therefore and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass and to stand before the Son of man!

Are you praying for the Lord to come? Are you ready if He came right now? If not, you can be ready by turning from sin to trust Christ as your Saviour and Lord. Right now invite Him into your heart and life. Ask Him to forgive your sins. Ask forgiveness of those whom you may have wronged. Then, through reading God's Word each day and asking His help and guidance, seek to live for Him until He comes. Indeed, Be ye also ready; for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh!

# Quake Fears Shake the West

The Olive View Hospital and Sanitarium which was 'totally destroyed' during this most recent quake in California was a new facility that was declared "earthquake-proof." Like the Titanic that was unsinkable, so this 'earthquake-proof' 23-million dollar facility suffered destruction.



California is a state which suffers many earthquakes and the recent tremors should serve as warnings to unprepared millions who would be hurled into eternity should a giant shockwave hit the West Coast of our nation.

Some may remember the quake that hit California in 1906. It was a lovely morning on April 18, with the sun awakening in all of its glory. At approximately 5:15, the rumbling, crumbling sounds of a gigantic earthquake was heard. The shock lasted little more than a minute but to Californians it seemed like an eternity.

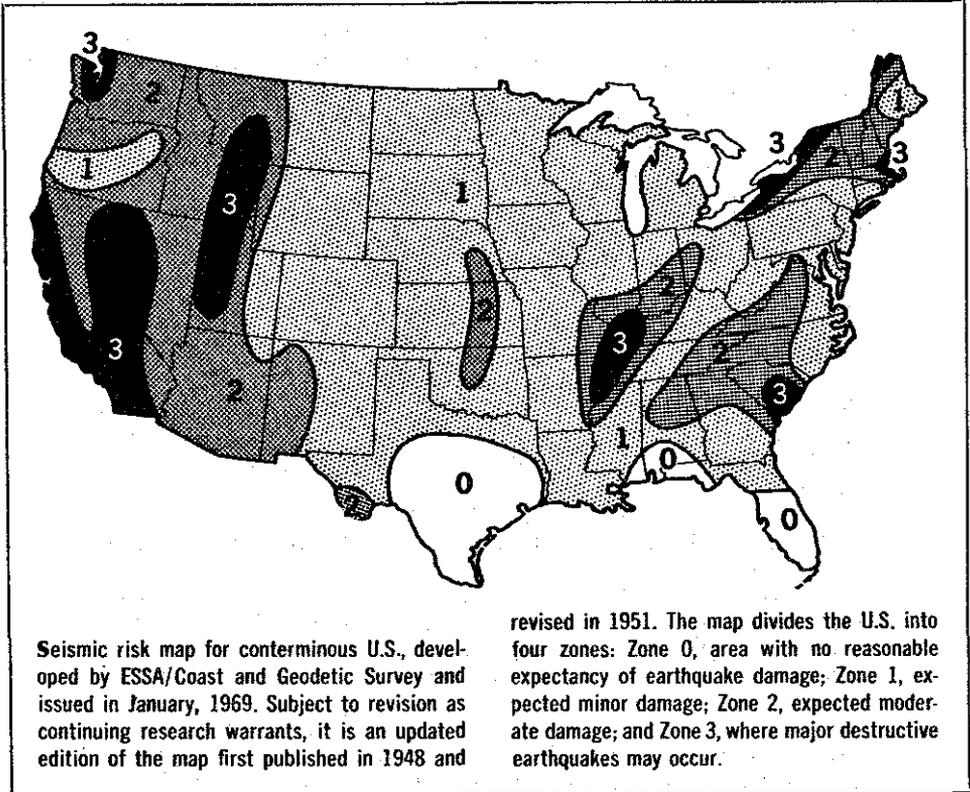
Jesse Cook, who later became police commissioner, described the event. "It was as if the waves of the ocean were coming toward me, and billowing as they came. The whole street was undulating," he recalls.

In the moments that followed, men and animals were crushed beneath falling rock as brick walls collapsed, towers on buildings toppled, chimneys fell, and steel rails, bridges and pipelines were twisted like wet clay.

William Bronson wrote of this quake, saying: "Church bells clanged with a senseless fury, and hundreds of thousands thought it was Judgment Day. Those who could find their tongues prayed...it wouldn't be far from the truth to say that every soul in San Francisco who could walk - man, woman, and child - was on the street in the minute following the quake."

Well, God has His ways of warning of imminent danger. Before destroying Sodom, God sent His messengers who warned of impending doom.

Similarly, every tremor of old Mother Earth is an indication of greater earth tremors to come - some so violent that they will level mountains, and their impact will be felt worldwide.



Some seismologists think earthquakes follow a cyclical pattern. What seems to happen, according to this theory, is that stresses build up in crustal rocks over a period of years. At first the rocks are sufficiently strong to resist these stresses, but eventually the time comes when the weakest part snaps and the pressure is relieved.

For those who are inclined to scoff, even the seismologists are predicting a major earthquake, and California could very well become the scene of such a giant disaster that is almost unthinkable.

As William Beirnes warns in *THE MIDNIGHT CRY*: "The people of the United States may wake up some morning to find that the whole coast line of California has changed and that the coastal cities have found a grave in the Pacific Ocean." Beirnes observes, "There are praying people all up and down the coast who declare that God has shown them that ten million people will lose their lives in this manner. But if even a small portion of the coast containing the thickly populated areas were to break off and slip into the ocean, the death toll would certainly mount to a shocking figure."

About a year ago, a lecturer for the Aviation Industry, was traveling in California near San Francisco. A Christian, he reported experiencing a revelation in which he was suddenly transported to another level of consciousness. Plainly he could see the whole of Los Angeles, San Diego and Santa Barbara. As he looked down upon the terrain, a massive earthquake took place, and according to the vision, buildings toppled, the freeways buckled and swayed, and a great wall of water swept over the land, twisting and smashing and burying everything beneath it as it came. When it all quieted down, these cities were gone. There was nothing left but ocean where these towns had been.

Was this a revelation of things to come or mere hallucination?

In Amos 3:7 we read, "Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets."

William Branham, another who saw visions of the California coastline breaking off and sinking into the ocean, related to friends during a visit to Los Angeles - "fishes and sharks will be swimming over where we are standing."

The California coast is known to be a shelf held up by pillars projecting itself out over the water as a shelf. It is said that before World War II, some scientists from Cal-Tech went down into those waters in a bath sphere." When they returned, they were white as ghosts. They refused to tell reporters what they had seen, but the news leaked out from other sources.

It was also reported that during the last war, an American submarine went back under and found that the waters extend to the base of the San Bernardino Mountains.

So, reported rumblings of the California coast should serve as an ominous warning. As an Associated Press dispatch from Pasadena, California stated: "The bumping, grinding series of light earthquakes along California's unsettled San Andreas fault hold the most dismaying prospect for San Francisco..." A fault is a deep fracture where one rock mass slips against another causing the earth's crust to vibrate and rebound.

Jesus said that one of the signs of His coming would be "earthquakes in divers places." Skeptics may argue that there have always been earthquakes, which is true.

However, we would again quote William Beirnes who says, "It is estimated that during the first thousand years of this Christian era there were only five earthquakes for each century, but when we reached the 14th century, the number of quakes increased to an all-time high of 137. With the 15th century earthquakes increased to 174; the 16th century, 253; the 17th century, 278; the 18th century, 640; and the 19th century it climbed to 2,119." Then observes Beirnes, "with the turn of the 20th century, there has been such a rapid increase of earthquakes, that at the present time, according to official statistics, the earth is suffering a tremor somewhere on the average of one every minute of the hour."

Earthquakes are a form of divine judgment. Sodom and Gomorrah now lie at the bottom of the Dead Sea. Whether California, rampant with Communists, cultists, and colonies producing lewd and vulgar films, is ready for imminent judgment, remains to be seen. But swallowed up in an instant could be this heavily populated area, taking thousands, and perhaps millions, to a watery grave. As God sent warnings to Sodom through His appointed messengers, so we would join in sending warning to San Francisco, Los Angeles and cities lining California's coastline.

During an earthquake, when everyone was frightened, a little old lady was heard saying, "I'm glad I've got a God who can shake this world like that!" Even so, we can consider ourselves as living under the shadow of the Almighty. Nothing can happen to us without His permissive will.

We're told our world is jarred by more than 5 million earthquakes a year. This should be a sign to all that our Lord's coming is near. As R.W. Neighbor, writing in the GOSPEL HERALD, notes concerning earthquakes and similar disturbances, "there is no doubt that we are beginning to reach the age the Bible has described as the great tribulation period. Great cataclysms may be expected on the earth in the near future."

Vance Havner, in his book LIVING IN KINGDOM COME, has a chapter entitled "Earthquakes". He writes, "We are having our share of them nowadays, not only physical, but other varieties not recorded on seismographs. Political, social and religious earthquakes are convulsing the world. Humanity is in ferment. Crime, violence, lawlessness, bloodshed, perversion, riots, wars and rumors of wars -- every continent trembles in world upheaval."

And we might add that it is on account of our sins of vice and violence that vials of wrath are seen poured out upon the world during the time of tribulation just ahead. Thus the call of God is for men to repent of sin and turn back to serving Him and earnestly longing for the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

What an hour in which to live! And how urgent and necessary it is that we sound forth warning to multitudes who know not what lies ahead! Does not God's command to Ezekiel to warn the wicked lest their blood be upon us apply to us today?

Beloved, this is a crisis hour. How we pray that many will catch the vision, and carry the burden of this broadcast, which is to call men to repentance and to trust Christ and be ready for His soon appearing.

For He hath said, "Be ye therefore ready, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh!"

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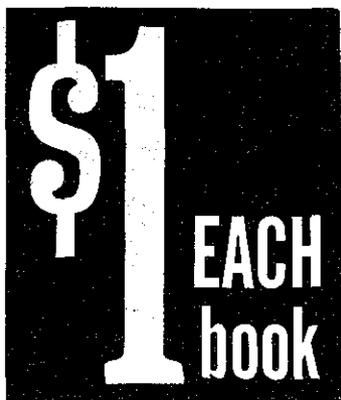
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