

# Devastating Earthquakes

**Crisis of the Last Days**

**M**an is never so helpless as in an earthquake. There is simply nothing that he can do. And earthquakes are the means that God proposes to use to bring humanity to its senses in this age of gross wickedness, blatant blasphemy and widespread disregard and ridicule of the Bible.

The facts as to how this will be accomplished are outlined in this booklet. We do not want to scare you, but to remind you that there is a solution to the frustrations of this age, and a hope of a glorious future to be found in the message of the gospel.

The rising rate of earthquakes is in accordance with clear Bible prophecy, and points to the impending intervention of Almighty God in the affairs of the world—in order to bring about His unique purpose with this earth.

But there is a greater earthquake that will yet shake the whole world in a tremendous display of divine power. It will emanate from Jerusalem, and will change the whole contour of the country of Israel. This amazing event is described in the prophecy of Zechariah, chapter 14, and will be the prelude to the appearance of the kingdom of God on earth.

This booklet will help you understand the dramatic times in which we live, and reveal what must be done for personal survival.

### **HERALD OF THE COMING AGE**

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**O**NE of the most fearful experiences of mankind is that of the earthquake. Caught in the terror, the uncertainty, the violence of tremor, when it seems that the whole earth is erupting, people despair of hope, not knowing what to do or where to flee. Even when the terror has passed, there comes the aftermath: the sheer trauma of rebuilding lives and towns out of piles of rubble, and of waiting for the next disaster.

### **Facing The Mighty Force of Nature**

From volcanic eruptions to floods, lightning strikes, cyclones, fires, famines, pestilence and earthquake—the power of nature is awesome. Man is defenceless against the tremendous strength and force that is unleashed from time to time, ravaging the security in which he trusts.

Although natural disasters have always been a fact of life, there has been in recent times a dramatic increase in the prevalence of earthquakes, and in their magnitude and effect. In a report by the *United Nations Disaster Relief Organisation*, the following comment was made: “Increasing heavy losses are inflicted on the world’s economy by the natural disasters, despite all existing efforts to remedy the situation. Indeed, it is likely that this worsening trend will continue” (*UNDRO NEWS*, May/June 1983). Millions can testify to the accuracy of that statement. Unfortunately, not only has the economy been affected, but property and lives have been tragically destroyed.

Dominating the news media reports of recent times have been the unusual changes that are occurring to the environment, and the ramifications of the ongoing carelessness and folly of humanity. Despite the modern technology and science utilised by mankind, we cannot prevent earthquakes, nor can we accurately predict their occurrence.

Unfortunately few understand that the powers of nature are under the control of an All-Powerful God, who sometimes employs such forces to discipline, direct or punish humankind for their disrespect of His wisdom and ways. Instead of endeavoring to understand the cause and reason for these tragedies, mankind continues unheedingly, sometimes abusing the earth and the environment, with little or no respect for the Creator.

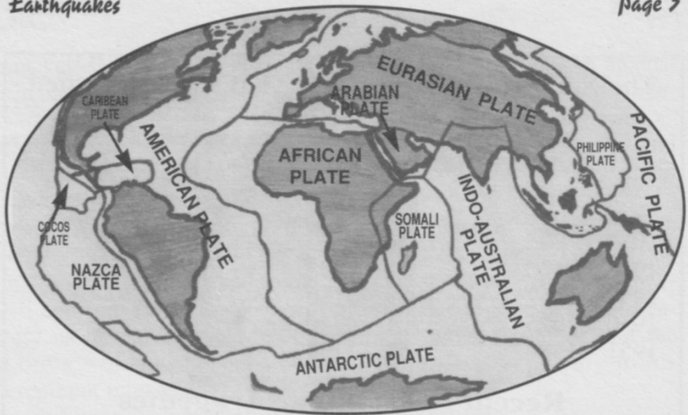
### **The Shattering Facts**

*Seismologists* are experts who study the movements and structure of the earth. They inform us that the earth's crust is not rigid and immovable, but actually consists of great rafts or plates, which fit under the surface, and pin this marvellous globe together. In continental areas these plates extend to depths of about 100 kilometres; they are thinnest in the oceans, with some areas being probably only about ten kilometres. They are slow in movement, shifting perhaps 25 millimetres a year. There are twelve such earth plates below the surface, carrying the vast mass and ocean basins with them.

Most earthquakes occur at plate boundaries as the plates grind and crush together, but both earthquakes and volcanoes sometimes occur nearer the centre of the plates. Kilometres below the earth's surface, a strain develops inside vast masses of rock. Something gives way, generally along a fault or weak line, and the sudden adjustment of these huge masses of the earth causes a shiver to pulse through the entire globe. The shock in the immediate area rarely lasts for more than a minute, and generally only for a few seconds, but milder aftershocks may continue intermittently for a long time after a large quake, often for years.

About 95% of all earthquakes occur in one or the other of the two great belts which encircle the earth. The first belt runs around the margins of the Pacific; the other (known as the Eurasian Plate) passes through the East Indies, the Himalayas, the Caucasus and the Mediterranean.

Significantly, however, the centre plate of the whole structure



The earth's surface is positioned on twelve massive structure plates, as shown on the above map. It is significant that there are twelve, for the Bible refers to the creative work of God being related to the twelve tribes of Israel: "When the Most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when He separated the sons of Adam, He set the *bounds of the people* according to the *number of the children of Israel*" (Deuteronomy 32:8). There seems to be a remarkable relevance between the twelve plates of the earth's structure, and the twelve tribes of Israel that will form the basis of the future kingdom of God on earth (see Micah 4:8, "Unto thee, Zion, shall it come, even the first dominion; the kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem" and Matthew 19:28: "In the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye (Jesus' disciples) also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel").

is the Arabian Plate. It is believed that this plate holds together the other eleven, something like the keystone in a building archway. Should any dramatic movement occur in this plate it would affect all others to some degree. The Bible gives indication as to why this is so, and how this fact will come to light in future world events.

### Why An Increase In Natural Disasters?

As the disciples of the Lord stood with him overlooking the city of Jerusalem on the day before his crucifixion, they listened to an amazing prophecy he gave concerning future events. He said: "Ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is

## The Number of Earthquakes That Have Recorded 3 or More on the Richter Scale

*According to the U.S. Department of the Interior/Geological  
Survey National Earthquake Information Centre, U.S.A.*

YEAR	QUANTITY	YEAR	QUANTITY	YEAR	QUANTITY
1934	905	1952	2306	1965	6686
1948	620	1958	2633	1976	7190
1949	1152	1959	3186	1988	13000+
1950	2025	1961	4740		
1951	1580	1964	5134		

## Recent Earthquake Tragedies

YEAR	PLACE	MAGNITUDE (RICHTER SCALE)	DETAILS
1976	Patna-India	...	8 million homeless due to floods. 400,000 homes destroyed.
1976	New Britain	7	
1976	Tangshan China	6.9	1 million killed; over 1 million injured.
1976	Turkey	7.9	On border with Russia.
1976	South Africa	8.4	At least 3,000 killed.
1977	New Zealand	7.5	At great depth; near Wellington.
1977	Europe	...	1,400 killed; Tremors felt from Moscow to Rome.
1977	Indian Ocean	8.9	
1978	Europe	7.4	Felt in Switzerland, Germany, France.
1979	Mexico	6.4	
1980	USA	7.4	Volcano St. Helens blew top; ash carried over 300 miles.
1987	New Zealand	6.5	North Island
1989	San Francisco	6.9	Much loss of life and damage.
1989	Newcastle (Aus)	5.5	Great damage to property in city.
1990	Lake Eyre (Aus)	5.5	Little damage; isolated region.
1990	San Francisco	5.5	75 shocks recorded.
1990	Iran	7.3	Area by Caspian Sea.
		6.5	Over 25,000 die.
1990	Philippines	7.7	Considerable damage.

not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and *there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes* in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows" (Matthew 24:6-8). He spoke of the imminent events that would lead up to the end of the Jewish Commonwealth in A.D.70, and have a secondary application to the end of the Gentile times in which we live today. In both instances the natural disasters which would increase in rapidity and intensity lead to a period of warfare and distress. It happened in the first century at the end of the Jewish age (see Luke 13:4); it will again occur in the twentieth century as this age concludes. There is abundant evidence that the Lord's words are being remarkably fulfilled, and testify to his imminent intervention in the affairs of mankind.

### A Mighty Earthquake Forecast

The Bible makes it perfectly clear that a time of increasing tremors will occur, leading up to a massive earthquake that is forecast in the prophecy of Zechariah, when the centre plate (*The Arabian Plate*) will be fiercely shaken, so as to affect all parts of the earth. That will occur at the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. When he appears in Jerusalem with his community of immortalised followers, a tremendous earthquake with its epicentre at the Mount of Olives will set off a chain reaction. Zechariah 14:4 declares: "His feet [*a description of the army of Jesus Christ—see 2Thessalonians 1:7-10*] 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". Other parts of the Scriptures indicate that the Jordan valley will be elevated about 1,300 feet—a massive earth movement greater than anything previously known (except, perhaps the earthquakes in the days of Noah's flood—see Genesis 7:11).

The purpose of the mighty Olivet earthquake is to cleanse the earth of man's maladies, to remedy the evil conditions that are today evident everywhere, and to prepare the area for the greatest transformation of all time: the introduction of the Kingdom of God on earth!

Such a literal, physical earthquake that will shake the earth's surface will be accompanied by political and social shakings that



The Mount of Olives, from the Temple Mount, has a rift in its earth structure (see arrows)—most likely providentially prepared for the moment when the prophecy of Zechariah 14:4 will be fulfilled, when the mountain will shift from north to south. This whole area will become a huge plateau upon which the Temple of Jesus Christ will be built (see Ezekiel chs 40–48). Write for our booklet, *Jerusalem, Centre of Future World Rule*.

will change the fabric of society just as severely. The Bible prophesies that “God shall arise to shake terribly the earth” (Isaiah 2:21), and speaks of a day when mankind will reject its former ways of worship (v. 20), construction (v. 15), and social conditions (v. 17). This will be a social earthquake of considerable magnitude, and will completely alter the present environment of life.

It is absolutely necessary that this occur. Unless God intervenes in the affairs of mankind, this age would destroy itself. The awful environmental, moral, political and cultural problems that are afflicting the world are threatening our future. The last book of the Bible, written in A.D. 96, indicated that this would be the case, for it prophesies of a time when “the nations were angry, and Thy [God’s] wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that Thou shouldest give reward unto Thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear Thy name, small and great; **and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth**” (Revelation 11:18). God will not allow foolish mankind to utterly annihilate this globe that He has created for His glory (Isaiah 45:18).



### Nature Is God's Disciplinary Instrument

God uses the forces of nature to discipline and punish men and nations when the need arises; or to reward them with mercy and lovingkindness if deserved. Referring to rain and snow, to stormy winds and blazing heat, the Bible declares: "He causes it to come, whether *for correction, or for His land, or for mercy*" (Job 37:13).

But, because of the inherent wickedness of mankind, history records many occasions of divine punishment by the use of the elements of nature.

Such an occasion was the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, nearly 4,000 years ago. It was a time of great evil. Every form of sexual depravity, of sin and violence, of iniquity and oppression was openly practised in those wicked cities. People ridiculed those who sought to worship God. It was considered "quaint and old fashioned" to practise moral restraint and to follow the principles of godliness and selflessness. Increasing affluence was matched by growing permissiveness as morals reached an all-time low. The way of life was noted for "pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness" (Ezekiel 16:49).

That description fits today's world! Jesus warned that the environment of Sodom and Gomorrah would be repeated: "As it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. *Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed*" (Luke 17:28-30). The Lord's words depict a generation absorbed in material development and prosperity, but bereft of spiritual values. The worship of God and the care of family principles were ridiculed and rejected by the populous.

Those wealthy and wicked cities impatiently swept aside the restraining hand of wisdom, and turned deaf ears to the warning voice of impending judgment (cp. 2Peter 2:8). Entrenched behind the walls of their affluence, they were contemptuous of God and confident that they were immune from trouble.

But in a moment when they least expected it, divine judgment was unleashed against them in a devastating earthquake that completely wiped out the cities, bringing an abrupt end to their sin and wickedness (Genesis 19:25). God punished them through the forces of nature which He alone can control and direct.

The Bible warns that what God did in the past, in destroying

## Force Beyond Man's Power To Control

- In 1703 Japan suffered from an earthquake which set cities alight and indirectly caused the death of 200,000 people.
- In 1755, the Lisbon earthquake completely ruined the city, and shocks were recorded thousands of kilometres from the centre of impact. Some 50,000 died, and the beautiful port was ruined.
- In 1883 the island of Krakatoa, between Java and Sumatra, was completely destroyed by volcanic eruption. It completely disappeared beneath the ocean, and a tidal wave, comprising a wall some 135 feet high was flung across the ocean at 500 mph, causing tremendous damage as it smashed upon coastlines in its path. Rock and lava were flung twenty-four miles into the air, and noise "like the thunder of gunfire" was heard on Rodriguez Island, 3,000 miles away.
- Meteorologists declare that the force generated by a normal low pressure belt, which produces bad or rainy weather, is equal to at least 100 atom bombs.

cities of wickedness and evil, He will do again.

### An Act Of Nature That Brought Salvation

Five hundred years later God again used the elements to establish His purpose. This time it was an act of mercy. The Israelites were fleeing from slavery in Egypt, but the Red Sea barred their way to safety. A tremendous hurricane, a "strong wind from the east", helped to divide the water and reveal a path along which the Israelites could hurry to safety (Exodus 14:26-31).

Describing the supernatural and tremendous disruption of nature, the Bible says: "He [God] rebuked the Red sea also, and it was dried up: so He led them through the depths, as through the wilderness... and the waters covered their enemies: there was not one of them left" (Psalm 106:9-11).

### Modern Examples of Divine Power in Weather

The natural elements have dramatically helped to mould the course of modern history, so as to assist in the fulfilment of prophecy.

When, in 1588, the mighty Spanish Armada sailed on a mission to destroy, once and for all, the rising British naval power, it was overcome not by the prowess of the English sailors, but by a violent storm that remarkably broke out and scattered the Spanish ships, driving many of them on to the rocky shores of Scotland

and Ireland.

The disaster broke the naval power of Spain, then at its peak, and paved the way for British power upon the sea. The course of English history was changed as a result, as was required by Bible prophecy, such as in Revelation 16:3.

To commemorate the victory Queen Elizabeth I had a medal struck bearing the quotation: "*God blew with His winds, and they were scattered*".

It was weather that defeated Napoleon Bonaparte in 1812 when he invaded Russia. As his French forces advanced eastwards, the Russians retreated behind a burnt-earth policy, destroying the very means upon which Napoleon relied to keep his army in the field. When, finally, his forces entered Moscow, they found that the Russians had withdrawn, and that the city was aflame. There were now not sufficient provisions, nor adequate shelter, for his troops, and the severe cold of that Russian winter took greater toll of his soldiers than did the enemy guns!

Napoleon learned by bitter experience the truth of the Bible statement: "Who can stand before His cold?" (Psalm 147:17). The disaster broke his hold on Europe, and made further developments which God's prophetic plan required.

During World War II the weather played a further crucial role on several occasions, and aided the Allies in gaining victory. It was not God's intention that Hitler should triumph, for He had decreed that Russia should ultimately dominate in Europe, eventually leading its confederated forces into the Middle East, to Armageddon (Revelation 16:16), where Gentile power will be smashed to make way for Christ's reign on earth.

At Dunkirk, on the coast of France, unusually calm weather unexpectedly aided the British evacuation, and the preservation of those troops assisted in the ultimate defeat of Hitler.

### **God Not To Blame For Human Folly**

However, it must not be thought that God is directly responsible for the effects of every disaster that occurs. Jesus made that clear to his disciples when he referred to a tragic incident in his day, that resulted in many deaths. He declared: "Suppose ye that these Galileans were sinners above all, because they suffered such things? I tell you, Nay; but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3).

We must not imagine because some nations experience the

tragedy of earthquake more than others, that in God's estimation they are more wicked and depraved. The tragedies that are occurring in many parts of the world are warnings to humanity that God will punish all mankind for their permissive wickedness. There is coming "a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation" (Daniel 12:1). It will be characterised by earthquakes, tumult and war on an unprecedented scale.

But the Lord Jesus said that such troubles will be only "the beginning of sorrows" (Matthew 24:8). The word "sorrows" is from the Greek word *odin*, and signifies "birth pangs", the pains of travail preceding the birth of a child. Thus, the "sorrows" are the hardships which lead to the appearance of a new age. This was the case in the days of the Lord, when the Jewish age came to an end with the overthrow of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D.70. It was introduced by the terrible "birth-pangs" of political and social upheavals that occurred in the forty years preceding that national earthquake.

We have a repetition of those conditions today. Not only is the world experiencing physical earthquakes, but political shakings throughout the governments of the world are a common occurrence. These things were forecast by the Lord Jesus when he spoke in symbolic language of the awful conditions of the last days: "There shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth; for the powers of heaven shall be shaken" (Luke 21:25-26). By use of the figure "the sun" he refers to the ruling governments; "the moon" is a Scriptural term for ecclesiastical powers which reflect the wisdom of the government-suns; the "stars" speak of individual statesmen and world leaders. All such are in a state of flux today, shaking as though they were in the midst of earthquakes—which, politically speaking, they are!

Such political "birth-pangs" are part of the developing crisis which will introduce a new age: the Kingdom of God, as foretold in the Bible. This present time of increasing trouble is designed to humble mankind, and cause thinking people to seek the help of God, and prepare themselves for the establishment of the reign of Christ on the earth.

### **The Purpose of Christ's Coming**

Lest the reader thinks that the political earthquakes that today threaten society—or even the literal earthshakes which are increasing in regularity—will completely destroy this earth, we point out that the Bible teaches that “the earth abideth forever” (Ecclesiastes 1:4), and that God has determined that His creation will last “for ever and ever” (Psalm 148:6), with His purpose being to “fill this earth with His glory” (Numbers 14:21).

Those religious leaders who teach that this earth will be destroyed, oppose clear Bible statements, and misunderstand other quotations which should be interpreted symbolically.

Though earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, floods and cyclones may cause the destruction of some cities—though occasionally we may hear of the complete disappearance of large islands due to the forces of nature—there are places that God has decreed will always remain.

Amongst them is Mount Zion, which “cannot be removed” (Psalm 125:1), identified elsewhere as “Jerusalem, the city of the great king” (Matthew 5:35). This is destined to be the metropolis from whence Christ will rule the world (Isaiah 24:23).

Though God created the earth to be inhabited forever (Isaiah 45:18), present conditions do not reflect His ultimate intention. Unfortunately, man uses the resources provided by God without giving thought to the Giver. Nations quarrel over the possession of things they never labored to produce, and claim the right to self-government at the expense of God's authority. God created the earth not merely to be inhabited without concern, but to be inhabited in a certain manner.

He declared: “As truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord” (Numbers 14:21). He will cause “righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations” (Isaiah 61:11), for “the kingdoms of this world (*will*) become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever” (Revelation 11:15). When these conditions exist the message of hope sung by the angels at the birth of Jesus will be fulfilled: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill towards men”. Then, the expressions of the Lord's prayer will be answered: “Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth”. There are hundreds of such Scripture references which describe the intervention of God in the affairs of men

to accomplish His declared purpose.

The first advent of Jesus Christ provided the means of personal salvation, and opened up a way of hope beyond mortality through the promise of a resurrection from death to life eternal (1Corinthians 15:20-23, 51-58). He is to return from heaven to vindicate those who live in the light of that hope, and to establish his control upon the earth. The purpose of Christ's return is expressed in the following clear references:

- “The God of heaven shall set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all kingdoms, and it shall stand forever” (Daniel 2:44).

- “The Lord God shall give unto him [*Jesus*] the throne of his father David [*located in Jerusalem*]; and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end” (Luke 1:32-33).

- “In that day... the Lord shall be king over all the earth” (Zechariah 14:9).

- “He shall put down all rule, and all authority and power, for he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet; the last enemy that shall be destroyed is death” (1Corinthians 15:24-26).

### **The Blessings of Christ's Reign**

The doctrine of the coming kingdom and reign of Christ on earth, is the greatest joy to every true student of the Bible. It permits him to see beyond present trouble and distress, to the real purpose of God in creation. It provides him with a substantial hope that is like an anchor of life, sustaining him in times of personal distress or difficulty, providing him with a wonderful future for which to live and work. Through faith and understanding of Bible prophecy, he can see beyond the present, to the time when Christ shall return to reward him with immortality (Matthew 19:29; 1Corinthians 15:53-54), and grant him the privilege of cooperating with him in teaching and ruling the nations (Revelation 5:9-10), helping to bring a humbled and changed world to God.

Christ's return will bring vast changes to society, as well as to individuals. Mankind will be subject to divine discipline; righteousness and peace will be enforced throughout the world (Isaiah 2:2-4); nations will be compelled to “beat their swords into plowshares, their spears into pruning hooks; they shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more”.

The personal, visible, literal return of Jesus Christ in glory and power, is clearly taught in Scripture in language that is simple and unambiguous. For example:

- “This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come, in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven” (Acts 1:11).

- “Every eye shall see him” (Revelation 1:7).

- “He [God] shall send Jesus Christ, whom the heaven must receive UNTIL...” (Acts 3:20-21).

- “The Son of man shall come in his glory” (Matthew 25:31).

In view of this clear teaching of the Bible, we propose to briefly discuss three questions: (1) How will the world receive Christ when he appears? (2) How will he assert his authority? (3) What should be our attitude towards his coming?

The answer to these questions will show why earthquakes have a purpose in God’s economy, and what effect they will have at Christ’s coming.

### **How Will The World Receive Christ?**

How did the world receive Christ 2,000 years ago when he appeared among men “teaching the things concerning the kingdom of God” and “doing good”?

The people grasped at the material benefits he had to offer, but rejected his teaching and restraints. When he criticised their ways, and warned them of the consequences of their folly in ignoring the wisdom and commandments of God, they became impatient towards him, and demanded his death.

Is the world any better today? Would socialistic Russia voluntarily put aside its atheistic creed to accept Christ’s discipline? Would Catholicism and Protestantism break with tradition and superstition, and accept him if he denounced their leaders as he did the spiritual hierarchy of Jewry 2,000 years ago? Would the pleasure-seeking, materialistically-minded people of the Western world accept the self-sacrificing principles of the Lord Jesus any better than people did when he first appeared among men?

Probably not! Certainly, mere preaching will not cause them to do so. And, history testifies that mankind does not improve its spiritual condition through its own volition.

However, Christ will return with the power to assert his authority, and compel men to accept his rule. Yet the Bible warns that the majority of men will continue to reject the mercy of God

even at Christ's coming, and will learn obedience only when force is exerted to compel them to submit: "When Thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness. Let favor be shown to the wicked, yet will he not learn righteousness; in the land of uprightness will he deal unjustly, and will not behold the majesty of the Lord. Lord, (*even*) when Thy hand is lifted up, they will not see; but they shall (*be compelled to*) see, and be ashamed (*of their past attitude*)" (Isaiah 26:9-11).

These divine judgments will be manifested in the earth when a world that has contemptuously rejected God's extended mercy will feel His anger, and through the outpouring of power be forced to submit. God prefers to rule by love, and will discipline the world in love. His judgments may seem harsh, but when all the facts are brought to bear, they are seen to be for the ultimate benefit of man, and will result in better conditions on earth.

### **Christ Comes With Power**

When Christ comes again, the world will reject him at its peril, because he will appear in a different role from that of his first advent. He came before to be crucified as the Lamb of God for the sin of the world. He comes again to rule as the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the "man of war" (Isaiah 42:13), "taking vengeance on them that know not God, and obey not the gospel" (2Thessalonians 1:8), "destroying them which destroy the earth" (Revelation 11:18), "putting down all rule, authority and power" (1Corinthians 15:24), "executing the judgments written" (Psalm 149), and reigning from Jerusalem (Isaiah 24:23).

He comes with divine power, and will exercise complete control over the elements, and through their means will discipline whomsoever he pleases (e.g. Zechariah 14:17-18).

He comes at a time of war: "Wait ye upon me, saith the Lord, until the day that I rise up to the prey; for My determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them Mine indignation, even all My fierce anger" (Zephaniah 3:8).

The present unease and antagonism between East and West will finally break out in a great contest for world power. The Middle East will become the focal point of battle (Ezekiel 38:8; Zechariah 14:1). There, heading a confederacy of European powers (being developed through the E.E.C.), Russia will pour in her armies, to be resisted by the West. The focus of conflict will be



the city of Jerusalem, and the war will decide the future sovereignty of the globe.

Will East or West prevail? Confident in the mighty accumulation of power she will muster, Russia will have the advantage, and it will seem that the world is about to fall into the hands of the Dictator. However, suddenly, and without warning, the warring nations around Jerusalem will be scattered by a new power in the political arena: the Lord Jesus Christ, in company with his resurrected and glorified followers, will make his presence known (Zechariah 14:3-5).

### **Unprecedented Earth Tremors**

The Scriptures show that the intervention of Christ at Armageddon will be accompanied by earth tremors and convulsions of nature unprecedented in history. They declare: "Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel... and all the men that are upon the face of the earth, shall shake at My presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground" (Ezekiel 38:19-23). "The Lord also shall roar out of Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem, and the heavens and earth shall shake; but the Lord will be the hope of His people, and the strength of the children of Israel" (Joel 3:16).

These manifestations of power shall cause fear to sweep through the warring armies. In panic they shall turn their weapons upon one another, and attempt to flee from the site of such frightening experiences.

Thus there will be repeated, on a far greater scale, that which took place at Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. On that occasion, a great earthquake shook the earth, rent the rocks, and tore the veil of the Temple in Jerusalem. It caused some who had previously doubted, to fear greatly and confess: "Truly this was the Son of God" (Matthew 27:51-54). At Christ's second advent the whole world will be brought to that state.

This tremendous shaking of the earth will affect the world in different ways. It will alter the whole contour of the Middle East. Mt. Zion, site of Jerusalem, will be lifted up, to dominate the land, whilst the country round about it will be depressed into a plain (Zechariah 14:10-11).

This will commence a series of severe earthquakes that will be felt throughout the world, bringing ruined cities, universal dismay

and widespread destruction (Jeremiah 25:32-33). But it will be out of that terrible experience, that mankind will at last respond to the appeal of God, and turn to worship Him "in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24), so that His blessings can be poured upon them in the establishment of God's glorious kingdom on earth. Only then will true peace, happiness and security come to this troubled world.

### What Should Be Our Attitude?

The increasing record of earthquakes must be a warning to humanity. Those with wisdom will seek the only satisfactory solution to the problems that face this generation. It is found in the appeal of the Bible, that we humble ourselves before the mighty hand of God by learning of His ways, and submitting to His will.

He demands that we understand His Word and exercise faith. Paul says that "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17). A true and practical faith will find expression in actions compatible with that belief. So Jesus commands: "He that *believeth* and is *baptised* shall be saved" (Mark 16:16). Not only saved from the holocaust of warfare, and the anguish of earthquakes that are yet to afflict a godless and rebellious society—but saved from the destiny of mankind: death. The offer of Almighty God is to enjoy life eternal in wonderful circumstances, with the Lord Jesus Christ in glory.

This grand time will eventuate when the kingdom of God replaces the ruined and devastated cities of the world. So the prophet Daniel predicts that "in the days of these kings [*the united kingdoms of Europe developing today*] shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms and it shall stand for ever" (ch. 2:44). Nothing will shake God's kingdom out of existence. Of that we can be certain, for He controls the elements of nature, and uses them according to His will.

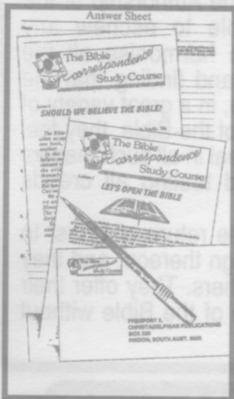
Neither can anyone shake the faith or future of a person who puts complete confidence in the true and living God. Let the reader find security and peace of mind in the pages of God's Word, and thereby face the future with hope and joy.





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.... Or, as the name implies, the brethren of Christ (Heb. 2:11), are a body of people associated together by a belief in the things concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ (Acts 8:12); and by immersion into Christ (Gal. 3:27) for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38) and a part in his resurrection (Rom. 6:5).

They do not profess to have received any new revelation, but hold that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are able to make one wise unto Salvation (2Tim. 3:15,17). Believing in the Divine Authorship of the Bible, they think it only reasonable to eschew any interpretation thereof which fails to harmonise all the testimonies of the Holy Scriptures; and finding that the creeds of the various sects around are, in a great variety of ways, opposed to the direct teaching of the Bible, they feel compelled to stand apart, making appeal in all such matters to the statements of Scripture, and testing all creeds thereby.

They believe in the personal, visible return of Christ to the earth, to set up his power and reign thereon, and they seek to share this knowledge with others. They offer their services in expounding the message of the Bible without cost of any kind.

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