EARTHQUAKE!



ARE YOU READY?

BY MATHEW THOMSON

SOME EARTHQUAKE FACTS

Some of the world's strongest earthquakes have occurred in North America's Pacific Northwest *(e.g.* Central Vancouver Island 1946 - M=7.3, Queen Charlotte Islands 1949 - M=8.1, Seattle-Tacoma 2001 - M=6.8).

There are approximately 1,500 high energy earthquakes worldwide of magnitude 5 or higher every year. *(Canadian Press)*

Seismologists with the Geological Survey of Canada record and locate more than 2500 earthquakes in western Canada every year.

"Populated areas in the Pacific Northwest have, in recent history, escaped significant earthquakes leading us to be complacent about the potential danger from a major earthquake."
(Structural Engineers Association of B.C.)

We never think that we will experience an earthquake – the danger is remote. We expect that it will happen to other people in other places!

Earthquakes can result in the tragic loss of lives, and massive destruction of property. They remind us of the frailty of life and the need to be ready to meet God at any moment.

You can't prevent an earthquake, but you can be prepared.

Do you have a survival kit?

There is a man in the Bible, a jailor, who was awakened by an earthquake. He did not have a modern-day survival kit. All the prison doors were opened and he was prepared to commit suicide, thinking the prisoners in his charge had escaped.

About to take his own life, he asked two evangelists who were his prisoners, Paul and Silas, a very important question, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" (ACTS 16:30). The answer given to that man is still the best answer – indeed, the only answer, **"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved"** (ACTS 16:31 NKJV).

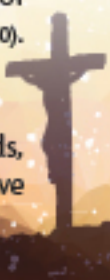
What a simple yet assuring message for someone who was facing death and not ready to meet God. He immediately put his trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. He

recognized that not only his life was in jeopardy, but that his soul was exposed to judgment from God because of his sinful life. We read that he "rejoiced, believing in God with all his house" (ACTS 16:34).

You may not relate to this man's experience. However, the verdict of the Bible, the Word of God, is that **"All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"** (ROMANS 3:23). We need to be saved too.

TWO UNIQUE EARTHQUAKES IN THE BIBLE

The first one is recorded in Matthew chapter 27 and marked the completion of the most significant event in world history. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was on the cross, suffering for the sins of the whole world. He was paying the supreme price to secure salvation for sinners. He was forsaken by God, as Jesus **"bare our sins in His own body on the tree"** (1 PETER 2:24). The gospel written by John records these meaningful words of Jesus on the cross, **"It is finished"** (JOHN 19:30). By this, the Saviour meant that He had endured all the judgment that our sins deserve and that God's holiness demands, making it possible for any person to receive eternal salvation through personal faith



in Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul put it this way, **"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast"** (EPHESIANS 2:8,9). As Jesus finished this mighty work, the earth which He had made quaked (MATTHEW 27:51).



The second earthquake took place on the third day following His burial. This time it was because the Creator had risen! As the day began to dawn on the first day of the week, a few women made their way to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body with spices, and we read: "There was a great earthquake" (MATTHEW 28:2). An angel of the Lord had rolled back the stone from the door of the sepulchre, not to let the Saviour out, but to show that the grave was empty. **"He is not here: for He is risen"** (V.6). Jesus Christ's death, burial and resurrection are central to the Gospel which means "good news."

EARTHQUAKE EXPECTED

The Bible also tells us of coming events for a world that rejects Jesus Christ. There will be "a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great" (REVELATION 16:18).

We read of some who will survive this earthquake only to face the fearful judgment of a Holy God. These people will call "to the mountains and rocks, 'Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him (God) that sits upon the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb (Christ)'" (REVELATION 6:16).



You can escape a future day of judgment by preparing for eternity now — **"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved"** (ACTS 16:31). As did the Philippian jailor, you can accept Him as Saviour now, and never have to face Him as Judge in a future day.

You can enjoy the assurance of sins forgiven by trusting in the soul-saving work of Jesus Christ today. **"Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation"** (2 CORINTHIANS 6:2).

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