

When the Earth begins to Shake

by Pastor F. M. Riley



This is just a note to let everyone know that we are okay. Here in Columbia, Missouri we were not in the danger zone; that is, no damage. The first quake (5.4) struck at 4:34 a.m. It was large enough to wake me out of a sound sleep. It rocked the entire house and even my bed for several seconds. It was large enough to make an impression not soon forgotten. I immediately remembered that since we here in the Central Time Zone are about 8 hours behind Israel's time zone, this earthquake came about six hours before Passover is to begin in Israel. I just don't think that is "coincidence."

After the first shock this morning, I wondered if it would cause other fault lines to open up around the country. Apparently it is causing such. The second shaker (aftershock) occurred about an hour ago (4.5). It was located about a 100 miles north of St. Louis. I think this is just the start of more quakes. We live just 100 miles from the New Madrid fault line, one of the largest and most dangerous fault lines in North America, and it is 60 years overdue for a major quake.

Folks, we are right at the end of this present dispensation. Are you ready for the Lord to come? Really ready? Don't be a bit surprised if these quakes don't start happening every day now, for there is going to be a tremendous earthquake that will literally shake the whole earth the day the resurrection and rapture of God's people occurs. What makes me believe that? I'm glad you asked.....

When the Lord arose from the grave three days and nights after He was crucified on the Passover, the inspired Word tells us,

"And, 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," Matthew 28:2.

*"And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves **after His resurrection**, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many. Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God," Matthew 27:52-54.*

Folks, it is Scripturally obvious that a great earthquake occurred when the Lord Jesus Christ arose, and following that earthquake and the Lord's resurrection the bodies of many believers came out of their graves. It is not then unreasonable to believe that

the resurrection and rapture of God's people will be accompanied by a great earthquake that will shake the entire earth.

The Jews who believe in the resurrection of the dead also believe this. Their Jewish tradition claims that when the Messiah comes to raise the dead the Trumpet of God will sound to a "thousand ells." If our readers do not understand this term, "ells" are a measurement of the decibels in music [the pitch or sound]. Look in nearly any hymnal and you will see the term used. A really good opera singer can reach four (4) "ells" with their voice, but rarely do because at four "ells" glass begins to shatter from the pitch and vibration of their voice. At just four (4) "ells." Then, if this Jewish claim is true; when the Jewish Messiah comes to raise the dead, the Trumpet of the Lord shall sound to a thousand (1000) "ells," then it is easy to see why the entire earth will shake as the bodies of the righteous dead are resurrected from the ground, and the living saints are changed. Praise the Lord!

Folks, the earthquakes have started here in the Midwest just before the beginning of Passover in Israel. The Lord Himself was raised from the dead three days and three nights after Passover. That would correspond with this coming Tuesday evening, April 22nd - 23rd, at 6 p.m., the beginning of Wednesday by Jewish reckoning. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the "big one" [earthquake] took place at that time, along with the dead in Christ being raised and the living in Christ being changed, and all of God's people being caught up to meet the Lord in the air? Wouldn't that be great? Folks, I don't know that such will happen, but I don't know that it won't either. What I do know is that we are in the time frame of the Lord's coming to rapture His people to glory. It could be any day now; any hour; any minute. Are you ready? **Acts 16:31.**



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