

What does the Bible teaches about Earthquakes?

By Bill Hekman

A number of earthquakes are mentioned in the Bible. Earthquakes are mentioned as tokens of God's power, His presence and His anger against sin.

Earthquakes are also a sign of the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and a sign of the end of the world.

It is believed by some scientists that the recent earthquake underneath the sea was caused by water seeping through the soil and rocks and finding its way to the heated masses below. Steam is formed and there is no escape for it. An explosion takes place whose force is felt on the surface and causes the Tsunami waves traveling at almost 1000 km per hour to bring its destruction.

The Earthquakes in the Bible:

At Mt Sinai in Exodus 19:18, when God met with Moses and issued the 10 Commandments to the Israelites.

At Kadesh in the desert in Numbers 16:31. God caused an earthquake to split open the earth and Korah and his 250 companions were swallowed up as punishment from God for their rebellion against Moses.

At Philistine country in 1 Samuel 14:15 when God sent an earthquake to cause panic among the enemies of Israel and they ended up killing each other with the sword.

At Mount Carmel in Israel in 1 Kings 19:11 in preparation for the Lord's meeting with the prophet Elijah.

During the reign of Uzziah, king of Judah in Amos 1:1. He reigned in Jerusalem for 52 years and did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. He made war machines and the first type of cannons. But in his old age he disobeyed the Lord and God punished him with leprosy until he died. God sent earthquakes to warn His people.

At the death of the Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 27:51, the earth shook and the rocks split. This convinced the Roman soldiers that Jesus was the Son of God.

At the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 28:2 when God raised Jesus from the dead.

At Philippi in Acts 16:26, when Paul and Silas were freed from prison. God caused a violent earthquake shaking the foundations of the prison and opening all the prison doors.

As a sign of the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 24:3-7. Revelation 11: 13, 19. There will be earthquake in various places. At that time a voice from heaven will call out the believers saying to them “Come up here”. In verse 12 we read that the believers will go up to heaven in a cloud, while the enemies of the Gospel are watching. This will be the surprise of the ages! This same event is also described in 1 Thessalonians 4:16, when the Lord Himself will come down from heaven. The angels will call the believers, the trumpet will sound and the dead in Christ will rise from the dead. After that we who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. We need to encourage each other with these promises in His word.

As an indication of God’s wrath against sin and unbelief in Revelation 16:18-21, and is related to battle of Armageddon. Here we have a description of the most severe earthquake ever on this earth and it is the beginning of the end. This earthquake will be even more severe than the recent earthquake of 8.9 in the Indian ocean causing the Tsunami. The great city of Jerusalem will be split into three parts and the cities of all nations will collapse. The islands and even the mountains will disappear. The whole topography of the earth will change. Hailstones of a hundred pounds each will fall upon men. The survivors will curse God instead of repenting.

So earthquakes are a sign from almighty God of His power, His presence with us, His condemnation against sin and a sign that His return is near.

As believers we need to pay attention to what God is doing and what He is going to do. It is a time of commitment to His will and His plans. It is a time of repentance from sin and a cause for holy living, preparation for the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and sharing the Way of Salvation to old and young.

