

EARTHQUAKES
AND THE
SECOND
COMING



EARTHQUAKES AND THE SECOND COMING

We live in an age of earthquakes. In our day literally thousands meet a terrible death as a result. To those who study Bible prophecy, all of this is but a portent of that which is to come. There are those who remember the devastating earthquake in San Francisco on April 18, 1906. *Collier's* magazine gave the following report:

"The 'judgment of San Francisco' destroyed 490 city blocks and left between 225,000 and 256,000 homeless. Close to 800 people perished during the first few hours of the quake and the resulting fires. More than 1,500 were injured, many of them seriously. Property was destroyed at the rate of one million dollars every ten minutes, for, while the earthquake itself caused considerable damage, far greater devastation was wrought by the fires which at times burned with blast-furnace heat, ranging up to 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit. . . ."

"For the first few hours after the quake, telegraph lines went wild. 'Rumors, tidings, catastrophe flew up and down the line: Chicago was in flames, a tidal wave had en-

gulfed Seattle. New York had toppled into the sea. Confusion and chaos were besetting the world. San Francisco's fate—it seemed to them—was merely a tick of the clock of doomsday. . . ."

—Rene Noorbergen

The January, 1976 issue of *Reader's Digest* carried this significant article by Martin Koughan, entitled "Earthquake! The Day San Francisco is Hit":

"What would happen if a major earthquake hit the San Francisco Bay Area? The question is not an idle one, for the California city is as vulnerable today as it was in 1906, when an earthquake and the resulting fire all but removed it from the map. The following chilling scenario is based on studies of possible damage, should a similar cataclysmic quake occur today at the worst possible hour."

"It comes with no warning at 4:32 p.m. on a lovely spring Friday. In the subway, commuters stand shoulder to shoulder; the freeways are clogged with weekenders eager for an early getaway. Then an earsplitting crack, inconceivably loud and terrific, brings all activity to an abrupt halt. In a fraction of a second, more than a million people realize that

the moment has come at last."

The article closes with these chilling words: "At 8:15 p.m., the most destructive of the nearly continuous aftershocks levels many buildings that survived the initial tremor. The aftershocks will continue for two days. Evacuation is slow and arduous; for now, no attempt is made to dig for survivors in the rubble--there is neither time nor manpower."

"The Great San Francisco Earthquake leaves in its wake an estimated \$25 billion worth of damage, 500,000 injured persons, and tens of thousands dead."

"There seems little question that an earthquake of great magnitude awaits its day in San Francisco's future. Can anything be done to help the city prepare for such a disaster?"

"The best hope would seem to lie with the intelligent application of knowledge about earthquakes in building codes, land-use management and control programs—and with scientists who are learning to predict the occurrence of earth's deadliest convulsion's."

In Matthew 24:7 we read, "...and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places." Another translation reads, "earthquakes, in different parts of the world." That is taking place in our day.

Back in 1938, Dr. Arthur I. Brown in his book, *Into the Clouds*, warned: “One wonders what kind of an earthquake must be sent by God to awaken a sleeping world to the imminence of great events. Even Christians are in a state of slumber from which many do not want to be roused. As God puts His omnipotent hand on this old globe, the ‘wise’ will pay attention and pray, ‘O Lord, how long?’ . . .”

“But all these things are the beginning of travail.’ In other words, ‘A new world is about to be born and a new millennial age introduced. As human birth is always accompanied by pains, so this world-birth. The first great pain is the world war; then you will see famines, pestilence and earthquakes on an increasing scale. Watch for this sign and its accompanying disasters and you will know the end of the age is near.”

Horrible earthquakes will take place during the Tribulation:

“And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake. . . .”

“And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood;”

“And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed” (Revelation 8:5, 8, 9).

My friend, get into the Ark of Safety. *“...believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved”* (Acts 16:31).

It is later than you think.

—Austin L. Soreson

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