



Mighty in the Word

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (1 Cor. 1.18).

Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)

The Wise Still Seek Him

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Can you not look around you where you are in your very small space and see how the enemy has been deceiving you and endeavoring to deceive all of us with what is going on in the world, not caring that we are living in Sodom and Gomorrah?

Is there a commission in this for you (Acts 16.25-30; Mt 28.19, 20?)

And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled.

But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.

Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas,

And brought them out, and said, **Sirs,**

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED ?

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Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

Earthquakes in Divers Places

Earthquakes must be terrible to experience as we have all read the news where large earthquakes have taken place. We need but read Number 16 to be informed of the terribleness of earthquakes.

Numbers 16 reveals to us an earthquake that took the lives of those who came against God's anointed, who thought they were as holy if not more holy than Moses. They confronted him as an angry mob, so it seems. The Bible tells us they came against the Lord (v 11). Korah came against Moses and Aaron. Hear what Korah and "His company" said to Moses.

And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, *[Ye take]* too much upon you, seeing all the congregation *[are]* holy, every one of them, and the LORD *[is]* among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD? (Num 16.3)

Read all of Numbers 16 to begin seeing what can and does happen when an earthquake occurs.

If these men die the common death of all men, or if they be visited after the visitation of all men; *[then]* the LORD hath not sent me.

But if the LORD make a new thing, and the earth open her mouth, and swallow them up, with all that *[appertain]* unto them, and they go down quick into the pit; then ye shall understand that these men have provoked the LORD.

And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that *[was]* under them:

And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that *[appertained]* unto Korah, and all *[their]* goods.

They, and all that *[appertained]* to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth (Num 16.29-33).

God made it clear what would happen to those who came against the Lord and His people. I believe this is an earthquake that which shook a lot of people in more ways than one. I believe the earthquake was a shaking of the people in their souls. The earthquake was more than a moving of the ground, more than swallowing up the people who walked in disobedience. This earthquake was a shaking, trembling or concussion of the earth. Webster's 1828 Dictionary says "Earthquakes are usually preceded by a rattling sound in the air, or by a subterraneous rumbling noise." I believe this occurred in the time of Moses, not only in the land, but the noise that came from the people walking in disobedience as they endeavored to

take Moses down and put him under their foot so they, the people, could blatantly come against the Lord God, and take over the leadership of Moses – whom God had called.

Oh, there was a shaking, trembling, violent shaking, as Webster's 1828 Dictionary writes. However, it was coming from the people that were rising against Moses and the Lord caused an earthquake, caused the ground to divide and take the people down – their lives taken because of their disobedience. (Num 16)

I see in this an earthquake, a shaking, trembling, in the lives of the disobedient people, as well as in the terrain, the land, the earth literally. But also, this earthquake may at times be in the followers of the Lord as the enemy, as Satan, is alive and working hard to take down the followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. This disturbance, this shaking, is progressing as the Lord's return for His own is nigh.

Oh, this is the beginning of what lies before us, as great tribulation is to come. There has been great persecution all through history, persecution that we cannot, at this point in time, even begin to understand in this nation; however, we shall soon see that persecution in this nation upon the followers of Jesus Christ is here. Matthew 24.21 says, "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be." Tribulation is oppression, affliction, distress, which we have been made aware of in other countries for the followers of Jesus; but – the freedom for the followers of Jesus may soon be gone in this country as there have been more and more restrictions upon the followers of Jesus Christ.

Webster's 1828 Dictionary definition of **EARTHQUAKE**: n. A shaking, trembling or concussion of the earth; sometimes a slight tremor; at other times a violent shaking or convulsion; at other times a rocking or heaving of the earth. Earthquakes are usually preceded by a rattling sound in the air, or by a subterraneous rumbling noise. Hence the name, earthdin, formerly given to an earthquake.

Webster states, "Earthquakes are usually preceded by a rattling sound in the air, or by a subterraneous rumbling noise." This brings to my mind those people who are murmuring underneath their breath trying, and usually succeeding, at bringing about turbulence among the people – and, in time, an envelopment of people into great discord, and people going down into the pit of the *ground* opening to receive them into the pit of evil.

Perhaps what I am endeavoring to share in what a tumultuous experience was when the people came against the Lord Jesus Christ and the crowds gathered to participate – not caring what was going on, but just wanting to be part of the crowd that was being stirred with hatred, desiring to attempt to take someone down into the pit. But praise the Lord they had no power; they did not realize that "those things which cannot be shaken remain." Jesus Christ could not be held in the grave though they tried. He rose victoriously over sin, hell, and the grave (Lk 23.4, 5).

Then said Pilate to the chief priests and *[to]* the people, I find no fault in this man. And they were the more fierce, saying, He stirreth up the people, teaching throughout all Jewry, beginning from Galilee to this place.

Know that there are those who are stirring up a crowd of which you may engage and may be like those in Numbers 16 who came against God's chosen vessels, who stirred up the crowd. It was the crowd against the two men of God. Earth hath no power over the Lord God and His chosen vessels (Num 16.19-33).

And Korah gathered all the congregation against them unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto all the congregation.

And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment. And they fell upon their faces, and said, O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, shall one man sin, and wilt thou be wroth with all the congregation?

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Speak unto the congregation, saying, Get you up from about the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.

And Moses rose up and went unto Dathan and Abiram; and the elders of Israel followed him.

And he spake unto the congregation, saying, Depart, I pray you, from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs, lest ye be consumed in all their sins.

So they got up from the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, on every side: and Dathan and Abiram came out, and stood in the door of their tents, and their wives, and their sons, and their little children.

And Moses said, Hereby ye shall know that the LORD hath sent me to do all these works; for *[I have]* not *[done them]* of mine own mind.

If these men die the common death of all men, or if they be visited after the visitation of all men; *[then]* the LORD hath not sent me.

But if the LORD make a new thing, and the earth open her mouth, and swallow them up, with all that *[appertain]* unto them, and they go down quick into the pit; then ye shall understand that these men have provoked the LORD.

And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that *[was]* under them:

And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that *[appertained]* unto Korah, and all *[their]* goods.

They, and all that *[appertained]* to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation.

I am reminded of Exodus 19.18 at Mount Sinai.

And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly

As we read the Word of the Lord and see what lies before us, what shall we do? How shall we prepare for that day to come? We have too long mocked the Word of the Lord using the saying, "Oh, we won't see that day; that will happen in the future when our grandchildren and great grandchildren are grown." Then go on living as though it does not matter, as though nothing is going to happen to us. It has almost become a laughing matter as we, in fact, do not hear preached the soon coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, nor are the grandchildren and great grandchildren reared in the admonition of the Word of God - all too often.