

# When the *Earth Shakes*

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# Outline

- What is an *earthquake*
- *Earthquakes* in Bible
- Implications for us

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# What is an *earthquake*?

- Ground *shaking*
- In terms of magnitude and intensity
- Energy travels as seismic waves
- Can be devastating

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## *Earthquakes* reveal spiritual truths

- Signs of the end times
- Demonstration of God's power
- Metaphor for change



## Before the 2nd return of *Christ*

- You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and *earthquakes* in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains. – Matthew 24:6-8
- A wakeup call: Be vigilant; live purposefully; and keep hope in *Christ*

# Seven bowls of **God**'s wrath as the final retribution

- The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, “It is done!” Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe **earthquake**. No **earthquake** like it has ever occurred since mankind has been on earth, so tremendous was the **quake**. –  
Revelation 16:17-18



On other occasions, earthquakes are more or less demonstrations of **God's** power

# Powerful *divine* intervention

- But your many enemies will become like fine dust, the ruthless hordes like blown chaff. Suddenly, in an instant, the *Lord Almighty* will come with thunder and *earthquake* and great noise, with windstorm and tempest and flames of a devouring fire. – Isaiah 29:5-6

## A way to show **God**'s "playfulness"

- The **Lord** said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the **Lord**, for the **Lord** is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the **Lord**, but the **Lord** was not in the wind. After the wind there was an **earthquake**, but the **Lord** was not in the **earthquake**. After the **earthquake** came a fire, but the **Lord** was not in the fire. And after the fire came a **gentle whisper**. – 1 Kings 19:11-12



## Another example of *divine* intervention

- And when *Jesus* had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The *earth* shook, the rocks split and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many *holy people* who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs after *Jesus*' resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people.  
– Matthew 27:50-53

## One more example

- About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to **God**, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent **earthquake** that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose. – Acts 16:25-26



In our lives, we might face our own  
“*earthquakes*” sometimes



# Revealing what is truly *unshakeable*

- At that time his voice *shook the earth*, but now he has promised, “Once more I will *shake* not only the earth but also the heavens.” The words “once more” indicate the removing of what *can be shaken*—that is, created things—so that what *cannot be shaken* may remain. – Hebrews 12:26-27

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## Eternal relationship with *Christ*

- Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that *cannot be shaken*, let us be thankful, and so worship *God* acceptably with reverence and awe, for our “*God* is a consuming fire.” – Hebrews 12:28-29



# Have *unshakeable* faith

- *God* is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the *earth give way* and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains *quake* with their surging.” – Psalms 46:1-3

A dark, atmospheric photograph of a forest path. The path is illuminated by a soft, ethereal light, possibly from the moon or a distant light source, creating a misty and serene environment. The trees are tall and thin, their branches reaching up into the dark sky. The overall mood is quiet and contemplative.

# Closing prayer