

AFTER SHOCK!

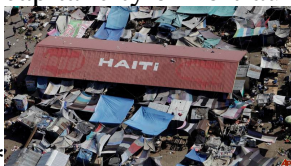
***Hmm...

The greater the difficulty the more glory in surmounting it. Skillful pilots gain their reputation from storms and tempests.

Epictetus

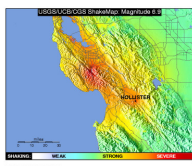


Haiti Earthquake January 12th, 2010: Six Months ago, a major earthquake, measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale, wreaked havoc in the impoverished Caribbean island of Haiti. This country was used to being pummeled by Hurricanes, but this earthquake absolutely blindsided them. It just wouldn't happen to them and hadn't happened in over 200 years. The earthquake struck January 12th at 5pm EST in a highly populated region 17km from the capital city of Port-au-Prince, Haiti.





*** The death toll is estimated to be between 250,000 and 300,000 with over 3 million people displaced.



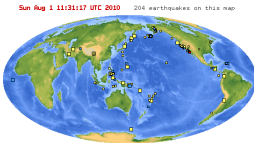
San Fransisco Earthquake of October 17th, 1989- San Fransisco Bay Area.



*** 63 people were killed, one of which was because of the collapse of this bridge. This was also called the **World Series Earthquake** because the first jolts were felt during the warm up of the 3rd game of the world series and were actually broadcast live.



*** 12, 000 people lost their homes in this tragedy.



*** **IN the Last 7 days, there have been 204 earthquakes all over the world and several** of a magnitude 6.5 and above in the Philippines, New Guinea, ALASKA

Most earthquakes and cataclysmic events don't announce themselves, they come as a surprise, and they always happen to someone else!

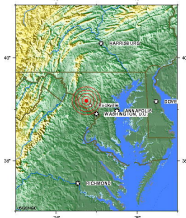
You see, there's a prophetic message in these events. The Bible says we should take warning at such disasters as signs of the end times upon us. And then God is specific about **earthquakes**, saying that they will increase in frequency and intensity, and...

******Matthew 24:7***

...and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and ***earthquakes***, in divers places.

-NO wonder the root word for **earthquakes** here and throughout the NT is the same word as "adore" or to venerate and respect.

IN THE LAST DAYS, THE VERY EARTH WILL BOW TO JESUS!



*** **Talk about a diverse place...just two weeks ago, on Friday, July 16th at 5:00 am**, in our own backyard, there was a 3.6 magnitude earthquake in the Potomac-Shenandoah Valley Region of D.C., Virginia, and Maryland.

Looks like these occurrences are increasing AND ARE EVEN GETTING CLOSER TO HOME.

Romans 8:22 tells us that the “earth will groan” as in labor pains to be delivered from the burden of sin it carries. People don’t like to hear this, and it is not a popular message, but are we experiencing God’s judgment on earth?

As we have continued to throw morality out the window and God under the bus we have to ask ourselves, what if it was me? And again, it’s not really a question of ‘if’ as much as ‘when’? Whether the tempest comes through the physical, financial, occupational, relational, emotional, or spiritual realm, we need to know how to respond...

What should our reaction be? When our world shakes, when we are in shock – after it happens – after shock has gripped our being – what we do next is absolutely vital.



*** **TODAY’S TEACHING IS CALLED AFTER SHOCK- “WHAT TO DO AFTER LIFE’S SEISMIC EVENTS.”**

****Matthew 14:22-33*

²²Immediately He made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side, while He sent the crowds away.

²³After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone.

²⁴But the boat was already ○ a long distance from the land, battered by the waves; for the wind was contrary.

²⁵And in the ○ fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea.

²⁶When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear.

²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."

*****Emergency Preparedness Kit:**

1. Have Faith-Not Fear

Vs. 26. "...and they cried out for fear."

Vs. 27, "...Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid."

I am not suggesting that we should not express normal emotions of concern and uncertainty when tragedy strikes. I am saying that fear is not the spiritual response.

II Tim. 1:7 *"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."*

Fear will not comfort anyone. Fear will only bring more anxiety and distress.

And we must not let fear reign during times of crisis. There are no answers in fear.

Only faith will have the answer for us. We are commanded to keep the faith, ESPECIALLY when the world caves in, which is precisely when many give up on God and head for the hills.

Jesus told Peter in our text he had little faith because he looked at the storm in fear instead of looking to Him in faith.

--Look at what He said from the beginning when they first saw Him approaching, walking on the water:

v. 27 “It is I, be not afraid” Yes, God was there in Haiti, He’s was there in the rubble with some still clinging to life. He’s there with many who have suffered loss of family and possessions, and He is ever present with us, especially in the aftershocks of life. God was there on 9/11, and in New Orleans and the beaches of Thailand and everywhere tragedy strikes. --But although it is not a popular notion, God sometimes uses these things to get our attention.

***²⁸Peter said to Him, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.”

²⁹And He said, **“Come!”** And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

³⁰But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!”

IN OTHER WORDS, PETER PANICKED!

EX) chickens with their heads cut off story on the farm

***** 2. Pray-Don’t Panic (v. 30)**

When panic takes over, praying ceases. Peter was looking to the Lord in faith, but when he panicked he began to sink. When he prayed he found rescue. We must resist the urge to respond in panic and in everything by prayer and supplication bring it all to the Lord.

*****Psalm 91:1**

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

It’s hard to see in the shadows, and it can be scary there, but we have to realize Whose shadow it is that we are abiding in.

***³¹Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said* to him, **“You of little faith, why did you doubt?”**

³²When they got into the boat, the wind stopped.

³³And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, “You are certainly God’s Son!”

*** 3. Believe God-Don't Blame Him

This is not God's fault, though we call some events an "act of God."

Some will blame Him. Some will turn against Him. It's part of our nature to make ourselves feel better by laying blame somewhere.

--If Peter were like many Christians he would have sunk under the water with a look on his face that could kill, saying, "Lord, I can't believe you'd let it come to this! I can't believe you're gonna just stand there and let me go under like this!" But no, Peter didn't blame Jesus, in verse 29, he looked back up in faith and believed.

And by the end of the story in vv. 32-33 we see the strength of all in the ship was fortified.

I'm happy to say that the earthquake in Haiti was not Obama's fault or FEMA's. I'm pretty sure that Hurricane Katrina was Bush's fault though, at least that's what the media tells me. Lol

--The Bible tells us *that it rains on the just and the unjust.*

It's a sin-cursed world, and we are the sinners who cursed it, and bad things happen-even to good people. It gets old...watching Christians get mad at God when things go wrong. In a twisted way of thinking they imagine that they are punishing God when they turn away from Him or fall out of church in response to tragedy. But they are only punishing themselves.

Whatever has shaken you—God didn't do it. Sin did it. God allowed it for a higher purpose, and we need to believe that and not blame Him. We shouldn't blame God, but believe on Him. God will save us from those same circumstances if only we believe.

We don't know all the reasons why. We do know that God is in charge, and He controls all. Thus, we must believe and not blame.

*** 4. Respond-Don't Run

Story: They had a huge fear of puppet animals and characters. The easter bunny sent them into a tizzy. Santa Claus was to be avoided at all costs. Then one day, I decided to take them to Barnes and Noble story



time. And the story was the CAT in THE HAT *** Grace screamed. Maggie ran.

We are not alone in this response when we are facing the storms of life...

*****Psalm 55**

- 2 Give heed to me, and answer me; I am restless in my complaint and am surely distracted,
 3 Because of the voice of the enemy, Because of the pressure of the wicked; For they bring down trouble upon me, And in anger they bear a grudge against me.
 4 My heart is in anguish within me, And the terrors of death have fallen upon me.
 5 Fear and trembling come upon me; And horror has overwhelmed me.
 6 And I said, "Oh, that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest.
 7 "Behold, I would wander far away, I would lodge in the wilderness. Selah.
 8 "I would hasten to my place of refuge From the stormy wind and tempest."

*Who said this...David!

Don't try to escape the fire. Stay put and let it purify you!

We must take this as a lesson and a call from God to do that which must be done.

This is an opportunity to learn, and a chance to help. It's time we do like Peter and get out of the boat and be a water walker! Covering in the hull of the boat during a storm is cowardly. It's time to step out, for there's a job to do, people to save, anchors to get set, life preservers to cast, sails to mend, rudders to steer, and opportunities to step out and make a difference!

*****5. Bend, don't Break!**

Ex) Airline Pilot

Allow for Course Corrections: There was a captain with Delta and currently he flies to Amsterdam several times a month. On the map, the route from Detroit to Amsterdam is a straight line. So to most of us, logically he should be able to get in the airplane, take off, set his heading and just drink coffee until he gets there. But when asked about whether he can just put on the autopilot and take a nap, he laughed and said:

READ THIS: "Things simply don't work that way. I spend most of my time making course corrections." He explained: "Things are never as they seem to be. Even getting the very best information ahead of time is not enough. Conditions change. Circumstances arise. If I set an initial heading but don't pay close attention to what is happening, I will never reach my destination." There are many factors that can take

a plane off course. Wind changes in direction and intensity. Storms pop up. Volcanoes spew ash (although not very often thankfully). Sometimes the course change is only a few degrees. But in the long haul, a few degrees can be huge. Simply put, the situations are rarely like you thought they would be when you take off.

This applies to our lives as well.

Proverbs 16:9 says, "The mind of a man plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps" (NASB). In other words, we make plans but the Lord makes *course corrections*. Too often we have a very limited mindset as to the role of the Holy Spirit. We hear that He came to convict us of sin, but He also has come to guide us and to make sure we stay on path. If we don't like the path down which He's taking us-whether that be through rocky terrain or valleys, we easily could wallow in self pity and drown in the shallow water. WE have to allow for God's adjustments and course corrections otherwise in the after shock of cataclysmic life events, we will live broken- still re-living events that happened 10, 20, sometimes 50 years ago.

What will we do in the aftershocks as an emergency response?

We must have faith, not fear.

We must pray, not panic.

We should believe and not blame.

Don't run from problems...respond to them and be a solution.

Bend and don't break. Don't relive the event, after a time of mourning or healing, move on and live the abundant life God has come to give you.

*****Psalm 119 said:**

67"Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.

71 It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.

75 I know, O LORD, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me.

The Shocking moments of life, God will use to **inch You Closer to Your Destination.**

*The Lord sets us on a journey when it is calm, but he never promises that it will stay that way, he only promises us a safe landing.