

THE EARTHQUAKE PROPHECY

of

WILLIAM BRANHAM

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INTRODUCTION

Regularly, we witness the awesome, mouth-dropping, destructive power of earthquakes.

(Some of the most powerful and destructive quakes in the 100 years or so since their power has been measured are listed in Appendix 1.)

The most recent mega earthquake was the March 2011 Japan event and its associated tsunami. It was the fifth most powerful global quake ever recorded. As well as being the most powerful earthquake ever in Japan, the tsunami is said to have been the most powerful in Japan for over 1000 years. The most solemn aspect, however, is the fear in the scientific community of an even bigger quake to come. Even more solemn, it would be in the Tokyo region, the capital and home of 25% of the country's population. (Appendix 2 gives more details of the Japan earthquake.)

But the devastation and destruction of recent mega earthquakes fade into insignificance by comparison with the worldwide effect of the prophecy of William Branham about the destruction of Los Angeles and a large part of California, and their disappearance below the waves of the Pacific Ocean. If this is not the awful wrath to be manifested in the last great earthquake of Rev 6 and 16, then what on earth will that last one be like?!

Details of that prophecy are given in the next chapter.

(For examples of the prophetic accuracy and divine vindication of the ministry of William Branham, see my articles on "The 7 Visions of William Branham" and "William Branham: A Remarkable Vindication".)

The following chapter outlines certain scientific discoveries since the prophecy. These support the prophecy scientifically (as opposed to spiritually) in significant detail.

Then follows an examination of what the Bible says about earthquakes, and how they are often the result of the Voice of God. Particular attention is given to what that Voice is saying, especially with respect to the period leading to and climaxing in the Second Coming.

Are we listening to that Voice and its message? It speaks so loudly that it is impossible to miss it. But, as Appendix 5 shows, while the natural world both hears and heeds it, man so often refuses to listen and to flee from the wrath to come.

Finally, Appendix 6 illustrates the confusion caused when men meddle with a true prophetic message, setting dates when no date was ever set. Beware of false prophets who, as in Jer 28.3, are so presumptuous that they dare to set dates, which then fall to the ground.

(To keep this core message of this booklet to a manageable size, 10 pages have been relegated to the six Appendices and other details to boxes within the text of the main article. These can be omitted to facilitate a quicker reading. The main article itself is 16 pages long.)

John L Birkin

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THE PROPHECY

The 29 April 1965 meeting

William Branham held a series of meetings in Los Angeles from 24 to 28 April 1965 sponsored by the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship. At the end, he was asked to preach one more time. So, on Thursday evening, 29 April, at the Biltmore Hotel in central Los Angeles, he preached "Choosing of a Bride".

About 500 people crowded into the upstairs banquet room, nearly twice the number it was designed for. Another 100 or so jammed the hallway near the entrance, straining to hear. Many more were downstairs, unable to find even standing room within hearing distance. They took turns standing around the perimeter of the room, occasionally exchanging places with someone gracious enough to share their seat. Others were outside standing on the street. Even the basement was full.

The message was, quite literally, earth shattering, for at the end Brother Branham prophesied that Los Angeles would slide into the ocean. A new coastline would form at the Salton Sea, about 150 miles inland.

Earthquakes were on people's minds that day. In his opening remarks Brother Branham referred to one that had struck the state of Washington in Puget Sound, 15 miles south of Seattle, that very morning, just over one year after another major West Coast earthquake in Alaska.

(At 9.2 on the Richter scale, the Alaskan Good Friday earthquake was the second most powerful ever recorded. It had caused the entire globe to ring like a bell for weeks on end. Though less severe, the Puget Sound event still reached 7.0.)

He said this could very easily happen in Los Angeles. Some had asked him if it would, but he said up until then the Lord had told him nothing definite. If He did, he would say.

In his sermon, Brother Branham asked whom Jesus would choose for a bride in this day. He recounted his recent sobering vision previewing the Church. The true bride of Christ was contrasted with the awful state of the modern church. He asked whether his listeners' lives were patterned exactly on God's marriage certificate, the Word.

As the sermon was drawing to a close, his voice was intense; his delivery measured and distinct:

"Church member, if your church isn't like that – to measure up to God's qualification of His Word – then get out of it, and get into Christ. That is a solemn warning. We don't know what time ... that this city, one day, is going to be laying out here in there at the bottom of this ocean."

He swayed slightly, and reached out to grasp the sides of the podium so firmly his whitened knuckles were visible from several yards away.

"Thou city, who claims to be the city of the Angels, who's exalted yourself into heaven and sent all the dirty filthy things of fashions and things, till even the foreign countries come here to pick up our filth and send it away, with your fine churches and steeples, and so forth, the way you do; remember, one day you'll be laying in the bottom of this sea. You've a great honeycomb under you right now. The wrath of God is belching right beneath you. How much longer He'll hold this sandbar hanging over that, when that ocean out yonder a mile deep will slide in there plumb back to the Salton Sea. It'll be worse than the last day of Pompeii. Repent, Los Angeles. Repent the rest of you and turn to God. The hour of His wrath is upon the earth. Flee while there's time to flee and come into Christ. Let us pray."

Those who knew him could see he was beginning to drift away from himself in the Spirit, and was struggling to stay conscious and aware of his surroundings. His body was visibly trembling.

He prayed for the people to flee from the wrath to come, clinging to the horns of the altar while judgement was roaring beneath their feet. When he began to pray, the anointing began to radiate from the platform and settle over the audience. Some described it as a "drenching of the anointing," more

powerful than ever felt before. People began to moan, then to scream. Men and women literally fell from their seats to the floor, prostrate in repentance.

Judgment was going to strike Los Angeles. It was not just going to shake. It was going to sink.

After his prayer, Brother Branham said he had hesitated to say these things, but they would stand on the Day of Judgement as a witness that he had spoken the truth. It was "THUS SAITH THE LORD GOD", just as was the vision of the preview of the Church. He had spoken in the Name of the Lord. He exhorted his audience to flee to the horns of the altar and cry out, to stay with the Word until their lives lined up with It. The bride must be the anointed Word. Those who claim to have the Holy Ghost but cannot cope with the Word have another spirit. God's Spirit is on His Word.

Prior references to this matter

William Branham had made earlier references to this solemn prospect, but never an explicit prophecy.

Even in the early 1950s, he so strongly sensed impending judgement and the ocean's advance inland, that he described it as "probable":

- The first mention was in an early sermon of uncertain date, entitled Supernatural Gospel: *"Sin has heaped up so high that someday the ocean will weep its way to the desert."*
- **May 2, 1951**, The Angel of the Lord, Los Angeles: *"Right here is probably where judgment will strike. That's right. Let's get ready! This will probably be the first place it will hit, right in here. Oh Church, hold to God's unchanging hand!"*

After his March 1964 experience (see box below), he moved from probability to prediction. (NB William Branham differentiated between prediction and prophecy.):

- **December 27, 1964**, Who Do You Say This Is? *"Look at the earthquakes over here in California. I predict that, before the coming of the Lord Jesus, that God will sink that place. I believe that Hollywood and Los Angeles, and them filthy places over there, that God Almighty will sink her. It'll go beneath the bottom of the sea."*

The March 1964 experience: Judgement to strike the West Coast

William Branham and several others had gathered to hunt in Arizona from 27 February to 1 March.

As the party prepared to break camp, suddenly Bro Branham turned and quickly told one of them to take cover. Something was about to happen. Over the steep rock face from the north came a powerful fiery whirlwind right above his head. Its force was such that it cut the tops out of the trees, carving out part of the cliff and throwing rocks the size of a man's fist for over 100 yards. The sound of its fury filled the air. The brothers with him took cover, under the trucks or beneath the bushes. The whirlwind rose, as if retreating, then returned with unquenched violence. This fearful show of power and might was repeated three times. William Branham stood through it all, hat in hand, looking up into the midst of the whirling force. As it lifted the last time and returned from whence it came, he put on his hat and said, "God spoke to Job in a whirlwind... The hour is here. Judgements will start to strike the earth, beginning on the West Coast of America."

Soon after, on Good Friday 27 March, the first judgment struck. The second most powerful earthquake ever recorded, and the strongest ever to hit N America, struck the West Coast of America in Alaska. Its force was equivalent to thousands of atomic bombs

But William Branham felt the Alaskan quake was not the only physical event set into motion that day.

Subsequent references

After the 29 April 1965 prophecy, he made further references to this matter:

- **June 22, 1965**, Thinking Man's Filter, *"The Holy Spirit in my heart tonight cries, 'Blind Laodicea, how oft God would have give you a revival, but now your time has come, too late now. How did*

you laugh and make fun of the people God sent to you. But now your time has come. Oh United States! United States! How God would have hovered over you as a hen does her brood, but you would not.' Now this voice is going from coast to coast, from north to south and east to west. How God would have hovered you, but you would not. ...now your time has come. Nations are breaking. The world is falling apart, fifteen hundred mile chunk of it, three to four hundred miles wide, will sink maybe forty miles down into that great fault out yonder. One of these days them waves will shoot plumb out to the state of Kentucky and when it does, it will shake the world so hard that everything on top of it will shake down."

- **11 July 1965**, Ashamed of Him, *I was preaching in Los Angeles, at the Biltmore Auditorium, ... And then prophesying, "Los Angeles will be in the bottom of the sea." And I ... went to Africa. And while I was in Africa, they had an earthquake...*

Since that earthquake, there is a two- or three-inch crack that come in the earth, starting in Alaska, goes around through the Aleutian Islands, comes out about a hundred and fifty or two hundred miles in the sea, comes back up at San Diego; takes in California, or Los Angeles, and comes out again just below the northern part of California there, a little place called San Jose, just below there.

And this scientist was speaking, being on an interview. And he said, "Beneath that is just a churning lava." And he said this, he said, "That is a chunk will break loose," and said, "and it will." ... The man, scientist interviewing this chief scientist, said to him, said, "Well, that could then all sink?" He said, "Could? It's got to!" Said, "Well, course, will probably be many, many years from now." He said, "It can be in five minutes from now, or it can be in five years from now." He just lotted five years.

But just as I sure was standing there under that Inspiration, put judgment on that West Coast, and then followed it right up here with the sinking of Los Angeles, she is gone! That's right. It will happen. When? I don't know ...

And, of course, the Salton Sea is about two hundred feet below sea level, and if that big churning, that earth swallowing in like that, with hundreds of square miles, hundreds and hundreds of square miles sinking into the earth, that will throw a tidal wave plum to Arizona. Sure, it would.

- **July 18, 1965**, Doing God A Service Without His Will, *"I don't even pray for America. She's going further away and is going to sink! Nearly one-tenth of the earth is ready to fall in."*

... just as I got back, a great earthquake had happened out there. And the scientists was on the television drawing it out. It was in the papers, that the earth ... split from ... Alaska around the Aleutian Islands, about two hundred miles out into the sea, come back in at San Diego, went around Los Angeles, and come out at San Diego. And it pulled loose several inches. Houses has toppled down. Motels has went in.

And the scientist on this panel was asked, , "Well, that could fall in someday?" He said, "Could? It will."... That's what's caused these earthquakes all along around San Diego and down in there; it's been that hollow place. And now, all of it's begin to break in like sand falling in. And now, it's just a crust and it's pulled loose several inches. They could take radar and stuff, and follow that crack, and mark out, see where it was at. And it pulled loose several inches more, maybe two or three inches the other day again, right after that prophecy was given. And the ones that was interviewing the scientist said, "Well, it probably won't be in our age." He said, "It could be in five minutes or in five years, but it's going to fall in."

Mrs. Simpson... got a prophecy that I made about 1935 or something like that, and said: "The time would come ... that the sea would weep it's way into the desert." Look what'll take place. If that thousands of square miles falls down into the lava of the earth and slides in, there'll be millions die at one time. And that'll cause such a tidal wave... Remember, plumb up into the Salton Sea is a hundred or two hundred feet lower than the sea level. That water will probably come almost to Tucson with that tidal wave coming across there. And the sea shall weep its way into the desert.

- **July 25, 1965 am**, Anointed Ones At The End Time: *"But we have been told by the Lord Jesus that when these things that we see now begin to come to pass then we are to lift up our heads for our redemption is drawing nigh. What 'drawing nigh' means, I do not know. Maybe it means as the*

scientist said the other day, speaking of the great cracks in the earth thousands of miles long, that the earth is going to sink. How many of you saw on television how they followed this crack in the earth with radar? It went up along the coast, broke in below San Jose, went across over into Alaska, out through the Aleutian Islands, then went about two hundred miles out into the sea, came back down into San Diego, and went around behind Los Angeles, forming a great pocket. All the earthquakes we've been having are from volcanic action hitting this great hollow dipper, however. When this shakes it causes these earthquakes we've been having for years on the West Coast. Now the earth is cracked all the way around."

- **December 6, 1965**, in San Bernardino, Modern Events Made Clear By Prophecy, he said, "Watch her slide into the sea."
- **December 7, 1965**, (William Branham's last message), Leadership, Covina, California, "You remember what I told you about two years ago, how that earthquake would come up here in Alaska? I also tell you that Hollywood and Los Angeles is sliding into the ocean. California, you're doomed, not only California; but you, world, you're doomed. Church, unless you get right with God, you're doomed. **THUS SAITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**".

The salient points of this solemn prophecy

- No time or date is specified
1. **Los Angeles to slide into the ocean**
 - There is a crack along the US West Coast, exiting the coast below San Jose in California. It then runs up to Alaska, through the Aleutian Islands, then turns about 200 miles out to sea, then back down to San Diego in the far south of California. Here it turns into the land mass again, running behind Los Angeles, forming a great pocket.
 - There is a great honeycomb under Los Angeles and a sandbar.
 - Hollywood and Los Angeles will slide to the bottom of the ocean.
 - It will be worse than the last day of Pompeii.
 2. **California truncated**
 - The ocean will weep its way to the desert.
 - The ocean a mile deep will slide as far back as the Salton Sea. (See box below.)
 - Several hundreds of square miles sinking into the earth would send a tidal wave to Arizona (bordering California, about 100 miles from the Salton Sea and over 150 miles from Los Angeles).

The Salton Sea (See satellite map below)

- A rift lake in the Sonoran Desert around 150 miles south east of Los Angeles.
- Located in a long, flat, closed basin, surrounded by mountains, on an alluvial plain created by the Colorado River, at the northern tip of the Gulf of California.
- The Santa Rosa Range to the west separates it from San Diego on the extreme southern California Pacific coast 85 miles away.
- It lies directly on the San Andreas Fault.
- Its surface is 226 ft below sea level and covers about 376 sq mls.

3. **America Devastated**
 - Waves will shoot out to Kentucky (which borders the Mississippi river, around 1700 miles from California).
4. **The World doomed**
 - The world will be shaken so hard that everything on it will shake down.
 - "Not only California; but you, world, you're doomed ... **THUS SAITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**."

If these words are indeed of the Lord, the implications are utterly breathtaking.

Satellite View of the Los Angeles area and the Salton Sea



The next chapter examines in more detail how two subsequent discoveries, since the prophecy, have confirmed the scientific (as opposed to Spiritual) prospects of major earthquake destruction in the Los Angeles area and southern California. It also explains the reference to a great honeycomb under Los Angeles and a sandbar.

Appendix 5 explains the relevance of the reference to the last day of Pompeii, which was destroyed by a volcano, not an earthquake.

GEOLOGICAL CONFIRMATION OF THE PROSPECT OF MAJOR DESTRUCTION IN THE LOS ANGELES AREA

The scope of this prophecy is stunning. It affects not only Los Angeles, but also southern California, the USA and the world.

Let us look in detail at the Los Angeles aspect, and how research *after* the prophecy has confirmed its literal accuracy.

Los Angeles: Living On the Edge

When it comes to earthquakes, geologists unanimously agree it would be hard to imagine anywhere in North America less suitable for human habitation than the land between the notorious San Andreas Fault and the coastline of Southern California.

The tectonics is deadly. (A brief explanation of the science of plate tectonics is given in the box below.) The mega-strain created by the collision of two great segments of the earth – the Pacific and the North American Plates – has reached critical levels. Geologists know a sudden 'unlocking' of these plates is due. It will unleash an enormous earthquake capable of being the most powerful ever.

Plate Tectonics

In 1965, the year of the prophecy of the destruction of Los Angeles, very little was known of how our planet really works. Much of what geologists now know of the structure and behaviour of the earth's interior was unheard-of.

But in 1965, a new discovery was about to revolutionise the study of earth sciences, plate tectonics. Geologists were just beginning to explore deep into the earth, learning what causes earthquakes. It changed the current understanding and shed new light on two of the most awesome and dangerous natural phenomena on earth, volcanoes and earthquakes.

It also confirmed the literal accuracy of the prophecy and showed that, even scientifically, a complete fulfilment cannot be far away.

By the early 1970s, it was discovered that the earth's outer shell is broken into 20 irregularly shaped, floating landmasses called 'plates,' each about 60 miles thick. The continents are embedded in these plates. They float on a churning layer of molten rock below.

Since the earth was formed, these plates have been slowly grinding past each other (at about two inches a year, roughly the speed at which fingernails grow), colliding, fracturing, grating, and sometimes rupturing as they drift. This movement wrinkles the earth's crust into mountains and valleys, fires up volcanoes and generates earthquakes.

Often the rough edges of the plates become locked, and pressure slowly builds. This can be released gradually by many small to medium earthquakes, or unleashed in one single, disastrous jolt. The great fractures, or faults, in the earth's crust are the surface manifestations of the converging tectonic plates.

Literal accuracy of the prophecy

Let us focus on two particular aspects of the prophecy and their confirmation by subsequent geological discoveries in the Los Angeles area: the great honeycomb and the sandbar.

(a) The great honeycomb

William Branham spoke of a great honeycomb beneath Los Angeles.

Some things that could substantiate this were partially known in 1965. But only recently were the full implications realised. A devastating natural disaster in the Los Angeles area is scientifically plausible, caused by subsidence, (See box below.)

A mega tsunami caused by subsidence?

Los Angeles is one of the very few large cities with significant active oil extraction within city limits.

The sediment in the Los Angeles basin is up to 6 miles deep. It includes the Long Beach, Los Angeles City, Wilmington (3rd largest in the USA), Huntington Beach, Torrance and Beverly Hills oil fields

Time Magazine, 1 April 1957^[1], recorded the partial sinking of Long Beach in the 1950s, blaming it on excessive drilling in the area. Since then, oil producers have pumped in water to replace the oil they extract. But water has different properties to oil. In 2008, in Daisetta, Texas, the walls of an underground salt-cave (from which oil brine had been extracted) dissolved, creating a sinkhole 900 feet wide by 260 feet deep.^[2]

Is the water currently being pumped into the earth dissolving structural foundation minerals under Los Angeles? Could subsidence cause landslides capable of producing mega tsunamis?

Landslides caused by subsidence created the following historical mega tsunamis:

- 365 AD - 100ft waves hit Alexandria after an earthquake off Crete.
- 1792 AD - 330ft waves killed 15,000 when parts of Mount Unzen, Japan, slid into the sea.
- 1958 AD - 1720ft waves destroyed Lituya Bay, Alaska, after an earthquake caused a landslide.

But there is an even more solemn danger to Los Angeles. It comes from its geology, i.e. the deadly fault lines it sits on. And most of the information now known was unknown at the time of the 1965 prophecy.

Research since the mid/late 1960s has produced irrefutable proof that the entire area is **honeycombed** with fractures (faults) in the earth's crust.

For example, Hollywood covers virtually every inch of a major fault, literally straddling two plates. Reservoirs have been constructed in depressions formed by past movements of faults. The Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant in central California is less than three miles from a strand of the San Andreas Fault system, and one mile from the Shoreline fault.

Strike-slip faults

In California, thousands of quakes and aftershocks each year are triggered by the sideways, sliding motion between the Pacific and the North American Plates as they move in opposite directions. (This is called a strike-slip fault.) The well-known San Andreas Fault – which runs the length of the State, slicing a 750-mile piece of the heavily populated coast from the North American landmass – is the largest and most dangerous fault in the USA.

The San Andreas has been researched for years, and seismologists are constantly uncovering its complexity, especially around Los Angeles. Here, the southern section of the fault takes a westward detour for about 100 miles, around the edge of the City. This detour causes the Pacific and North American plates to collide with enough force to contort and squeeze the plate edges, pushing the mountain ranges in the area higher and higher. The immense stress has also birthed a complex network of smaller faults, each capable of creating its own devastation. Soon after a 7.5 quake rocked Landers, Time Magazine said, 24 August 1992: "The battle of the plates has created numerous smaller fault lines along the San Andreas, giving the region the look of **a smashed windshield.**"

By 1998, apart from the San Andreas, there were seven known major fault systems in metropolitan Los Angeles alone, which have reached the surface and can be recognised visibly.

Blind thrust faults

But there is also another type of fault, virtually ignored until the 1980s, the blind thrust fault. These do not appear on the earth's surface but are completely hidden below. They are tilted so much that their position beneath the surface is horizontal, not vertical, **creating a dimensional honeycomb** of the underlying fault system.

One of the more than 50 such newly recognised faults – the Elysian Park zone – runs directly under the skyscrapers and criss-crosses the freeways of central Los Angeles.

Only God knew about this when the “great honeycomb” beneath Los Angeles was prophetically revealed in 1965. Now, intense efforts are underway to map it. It is frightening. Professor Kerry Seih of the Seismological Laboratory at Caltec, said,

“We used to think the main danger to LA was a ‘big one’ originating on the San Andreas Fault, which runs at least 30 miles from downtown. But the San Andreas is no longer the only source for a big one. We now have the enemy right beneath the city as well as on its margins.”

Each new blind thrust fault discovered raises another red flag to geologists. “There are unknown, obscure faults everywhere beneath LA,” they reported in 1995. “We know that just one of them can create a 6.7 quake. What if two or more break together?”

Chain Reaction

A major factor determining the effects of an earthquake on a particular location is its distance from the epicentre. But geologists now know that a rupture along just one part of one fault may not be restricted to that one fault. It can trigger earthquakes along neighbouring segments also, jumping from fault to fault. So, you could be miles from the epicentre, yet still be on top of the quake.

So, even if the epicentre of an earthquake were relatively distant from Los Angeles, the chain reaction effect could still damage the city. Such a chain reaction along the fault structure beneath Los Angeles would create an earthquake of unimaginable magnitude.

But the great honeycomb is not even half of the story.

(b) “...this sandbar hanging over that”

As if **the network of faults** beneath Los Angeles were not deadly enough, the composition of the soil comprising the framework of that honeycomb makes the danger even greater.

A second major factor that determines the effect of an earthquake is the rock or soil density in the area. In this category also the Los Angeles area, west of the San Gabriel Mountains, has all the components for a highly destructive, worse case scenario earthquake.

The San Gabriel Mountains rise behind the Los Angeles Basin. This Basin was once covered by the sea, but ocean sediment and sand and gravel from the nearby mountains have created a landfill up to 4 1/2 miles deep covering 4,113 sq miles. So, although the Hollywood Hills rise only a few hundred feet above the city, if you removed the sediments and stood at the bottom of the Basin, it would be like looking up at the Himalayas.

This great mass of sediment throws light on what William Branham spoke of in 1965 – a sandbar. (i.e. a long mass of submerged or partially exposed sand.)

And such a sandbar in such a geologically unstable setting can be deadly.

During an earthquake, such a sandbar or mass of alluvial soil, when contained in a basin of granite and schist, like the bowl-shaped floor of in the Los Angeles Basin, acts like an amplifier for seismic waves. It causes them to criss-cross and magnify within the enclosed space. A double or triple dose of seismic energy is then created, which triggers liquefaction.

Liquefaction

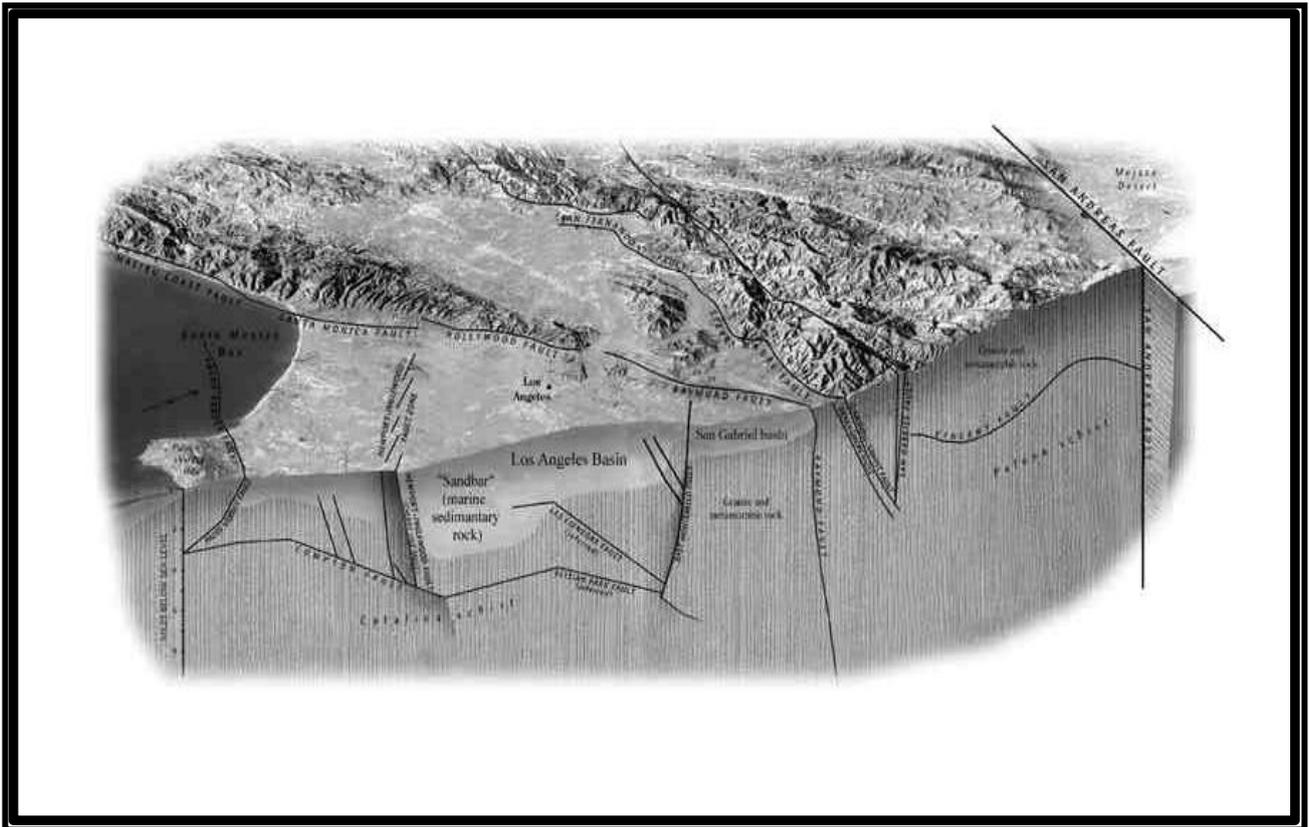
Liquefaction is when solid soil turns into a fluid-like mass, like quicksand.

Where wet sand lies only a few feet below the surface, if the terrain is severely shaken, the water pressure in the sand reaches the point where the grains separate from each other and turn into a slurry-like quicksand. This inevitably leads to a sudden drop in surface of the land.

Liquefaction is not a theory. Such effects have occurred in past earthquakes in thick sedimentary basins.

Geologists believe the following examples could be comparable to a future, high-magnitude quake in the Los Angeles Basin:

- **Alaska, Good Friday, 27 March 1964** – In this monster 9.2 tremor, four minutes of intense shaking liquefied the underlying alluvium. It caused massive landslides as the surface broke up and slid towards the ocean causing tsunamis. The convulsions had such power the ground bulged up to two inches as they raced through Chicago, Boston, and other parts of the USA. Even after crossing the globe, the vibrations still had enough power to upset water levels in wells in South Africa, at the opposite side of the globe.
- **Mexico City, 19 September 1985** – This 8.1 earthquake, sourced 200 miles away in the Pacific, killed over 9,000. Nearly all deaths were in the part of the city built on a thick deposit of soft, high-water-content sediment. The resonant vibrations shook the city as though it were a bowl of jelly, increasing the oscillations of buildings until they collapsed.



*Map showing a cross section of the western half of the Los Angeles Basin
(If you remove the sandbar, the low hills on the Hollywood fault nearly equal the height of the Himalayas!)*

In the light of the geological factors of chain reaction and liquefaction, read again the words spoken by William Branham on July 11, 1965:

“...if that big churning, that earth swallowing in like that, with hundreds of square miles – hundreds and hundreds of square miles – sinking into the earth, it will throw a tidal wave plum to Arizona. Sure it would.”

To conclude, geological discoveries since the time of the earthquake prophecy have substantiated its scientific accuracy in a very sobering way.

(Appendix 4 gives two recent press articles about earthquakes on the West Coast of America, further confirming the scientific accuracy of the prophecy.)

EARTHQUAKES IN SCRIPTURE

An internationally known evangelist wrote of the earthquake prophecy of Brother Branham that he did not find such things in the Scripture and believed they had absolutely no significance for the people of God.

Was he right? Are earthquakes simply chance events, the result of merely natural and geological forces? Or do they have a spiritual significance? Are they telling us something? In short, are they natural or supernatural?

“What saith the Scripture?” Let us seek the answer.

The Voice of God in the Earthquake

The fundamental truth is that the Bible states explicitly that earthquakes may be the result of the Voice of God. In other words, they are not mere chance. They are saying something:

- Ps 46.6 ... **he uttered his voice**, the earth melted.
- Joel 3.16 *The LORD...shall...**utter his voice**...and the heavens and the earth shall shake*

It may well be that when the Lord met with Elijah at Horeb (1 K 19.11-12), His Voice was *not* in *that* earthquake. But it certainly *was* in the one that shook the same mountain years before when Israel were camped there after crossing the Red Sea:

- Heb 12.26 ***Whose voice** then shook the earth*

In case it be said that the reference to His Voice in the first two passages is simply metaphorical or poetic, the latter reference is unquestionably historical, literal and physical. It was no chance event without significance. It had a Voice. It was saying something. What?

What is the Voice saying?

If the Voice of God is indeed in the earthquake, then what is it saying? Let us look at two things that the Word says that Voice may be saying.

a) *The Coming/Presence of the Lord*

Scripture explicitly shows that earthquakes may speak of the coming of the Lord **to** or **on behalf of** His own.

The earthquake at Sinai is the first mentioned in the Bible. It is linked with the coming down of the Presence of the Lord **to** His people. The earth shakes/melts at the mere coming of that Presence:

- Ex 19.18 *Sinai was altogether on a smoke, **because** the LORD descended ... and the whole mount quaked greatly...*
- Ps 68.7-8 *O God, **when thou wentest forth...** when thou didst march through the wilderness; ... The earth shook ... even Sinai itself was moved **at the presence of God**, the God of Israel.*

(Other references to this same event are found in Jud 5.4-5 and Ps 114.4-7.)

In the New Testament also, the mere coming of His Presence, His Spirit, to His people into a prayer meeting was quite literally an earth-shaking experience:

- Acts 4.31 ... *when they had prayed, **the place was shaken** ... and they were all filled with **the Holy Ghost***

Earthquakes may not only speak of His coming **to** His own. They can also occur when God comes **on behalf of** His own. Though not explicitly stated, the timing of the earthquakes in 1 Sam 14.15, Matt 28.2 and Acts 16.26 can be no coincidence.

b) His wrath

Scripture also states that earthquakes may speak of His anger, wrath, displeasure, fury and indignation towards the disobedient. From the oldest book in the Bible onwards, this is plainly taught:

- Job 9.5-6 *Which removeth the mountains, ... which overturneth them **in his anger**. Which shaketh the earth out of her place, and the pillars thereof tremble.*
- Ps 60.1-3 *O God, ... **thou hast been displeased**; ... Thou hast made the earth to tremble; thou hast broken it*
- Isa 29.6 *Thou shalt be **visited** of the LORD of hosts ... with earthquake*

Could the solemn (and literal) incident of Nu 16.30-34, when the earth opened her mouth and swallowed up the rebels, be an example of such an earthquake?

Some such earthquakes are sent **from** the Presence of the Lord. Others are caused by the very coming **of** that Presence in wrath:

- Ps 18.7-9 *...the earth shook and trembled; the foundations also of the hills moved and were shaken, **because he was wroth**... **He** bowed the heavens also, and **came down***
- Jer 4.23-26 *I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void ... I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down **at the presence of the LORD, and by his fierce anger**.*
- Ezk 38.18-20 *... when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, ... **my fury shall come up in my face**. For **in my jealousy and in the fire of my wrath** have I spoken, Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel; So that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things... and all the men that are upon the face of the earth, shall shake **at my presence**, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall...*
- Mi 1.3-5a *...behold, **the LORD... will come down** ... And the mountains shall be molten under him, and the valleys shall be cleft, as wax before the fire, and as the waters that are poured down a steep place. For the transgression of Jacob is all this, and for the sins of the house of Israel.*
- Nah 1.5-6 *The mountains quake at him, and the hills melt, and the earth is burned **at his presence**, yea, the world, and all that dwell therein. Who can stand **before his indignation**? and who can abide in **the fierceness of his anger**? **his fury** is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him.*

Clearly the evangelist mentioned at the start of this chapter was ignorant of the plain teaching of Scripture. Earthquakes may definitely speak of divine wrath.

Earthquakes and the Second Coming

So far virtually all Scriptures quoted are from the Old Testament. Perhaps what has been said so far is true, but only for the age of the Law, not for the New Testament age of grace? Perhaps earthquakes have no significance for us today? Perhaps the evangelist was right after all?

Or was he?

How are we to understand the many earthquakes around us today? Do they still have a Voice?

Yes. And it is speaking exactly the same as before:

- Of His coming to or for His own, but now, in particular, of the Second Coming.
- Of His wrath towards the disobedient, but now, in particular, of the coming great day of His wrath.

In fact, most Biblical references to earthquakes relate to the time leading up to and including His Second Coming, whether found in the Old or New Testaments. Let us look more closely at them.

e) A sign of His Coming

Jesus Himself said widespread and powerful earthquakes were significant. He called them a signpost. Pointing to what? To the approach of the time of His Coming:

- Matt 24.3-7 ...*what shall be the **sign** of thy coming...? ... **earthquakes, in divers places***
- Lk 21.11 ...***great earthquakes shall be in divers places***

These great earthquakes shall climax in the greatest earthquake in all history:

- Rev 16.17-20 *And the seventh angel poured out his vial ... and there was **a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great** ... and the cities of the nations fell ... And **every island** fled away, and **the mountains** were not found.*

f) A sign of the wrath to come

The Voice of these end time earthquakes not only speaks of the Coming of the Lord for His own, it also speaks of a coming wrath. And what a terrible wrath that will be. It will not merely be a day of wrath but **the great day** of His wrath.

Now the great earthquake of Rev 16 strongly resembles the earthquake described in the 6th Seal. (If they are not the same, then there are at least two future earthquakes when every mountain and every island shall be moved.)

- Rev 6.12-17 *...lo, there was a great earthquake... and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And ... every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For **the great day of his wrath** is come; and who shall be able to stand?*

Notice how the 6th Seal earthquake is specifically described as the great day of the wrath of God. And what day is that great day of His wrath? It is clearly identified in a cross-reference to the frantic search for a hiding place just described:

- Isa 2.12, 19 *...**the day of the LORD of hosts** shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and ... lifted up; and he shall be brought low... And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.*

So, the day of the great earthquake of Rev 6 & 16 (assuming they are the same) is the Day of the Lord.

Let us look more closely at this Day, also called the Day of the Lord's wrath. (The box below lists some of the Biblical terms to describe this day.)

Some Scriptural terms to describe the Day of the Lord:

- The day of the Lord (Isa 13.6; Joel 1.15; 2.1; 3.14)
- The great day of the Lord (Zeph 2.14)
- The great day of God Almighty (Rev 16.14)
- The day of His coming (Mal 3.2)
- the day... that shall burn as an oven (Mal 4.1)
- the great and terrible day of the Lord (Joel 2.31)
- the great and dreadful day of the Lord (Mal 4.5)
- the great and very terrible day of the Lord (Joel 2.11)
- the day of the Lord's vengeance (Isa 34.8)
- the day of the Lord's wrath (Zeph 1.18)
- the day of wrath and revelation of the Lord's judgement (Ro 2.5)

g) *The Day of the Lord's wrath*

In prophecy, this Day is associated with very severe judgement, when His wrath is outpoured. It is also the Day when the Lord will come down.

So, as in earlier periods, earthquakes at the end of the age speak of His coming and of His wrath.

How terrible indeed will be the wrath of that day! As if the earthquake(s) of Rev 6 & 16 were not enough, there is even worse. When all references to this Day are assembled, they paint a truly sobering scene:

- Not only shall the mountains and islands be moved by the greatest earthquake ever, but even the very planet itself shall be shaken/moved;
- Not only shall our own planet be shaken, but the heavens also shall be physically shaken.

Here are some relevant verses, whose contexts show that they are speaking of the events of this Day:

- Rev 6.12-14 *...when he had opened the sixth seal... lo, there was a great earthquake; ... **And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, ... And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.***
- Joel 2.10 *The earth shall quake before them; **the heavens shall tremble***
- Isaiah 13.9-13 *Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it... And I will punish the world for their evil, ...**I will shake the heavens**, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger.*
- Isa 34.4 *...**all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down***

Although no time is specified, Isa 24.18-20 also seems to fit this period. If so, such shall be the earthquakes that convulse the very foundations of the earth that the planet itself shall stagger back and forth in its orbit like a drunken man.

h) *When shall these things be?*

We know there shall be great earthquakes in many places prior to the Second Coming. We know there shall be a great earthquake of unimaginable power in the great day of His wrath. But we are also told other details of the final timetable, including the shaking of both heaven and earth:

- Firstly, the great tribulation
- Then, immediately afterwards, the heavens are darkened and shaken:

Matt 24.29 ***Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken*** (Cp Mk 13.25).

- Then, after both heavens and earth are shaken, the Lord comes:

Lk 21.25-28 *There shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And **then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.** And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draws nigh*

Hag 2.6-7, 21 *...thus saith the LORD of hosts...I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; And I will shake all nations, **and the desire of all nations shall come:** and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts... I will shake the heavens and the earth (Cp Heb 12.26-27).*

- And when He returns to the Mt of Olives, there shall be a further earthquake. The mount shall quake and split at His Presence/coming, just as when He came down on Sinai:

Zech 14.3-5 *Then shall the LORD go forth...And his feet shall stand... upon the mount of Olives... and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley... And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains ... yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah (Cp Am 1.1).*

- This compares with the earthquake the psalmist saw when the Lord came down to take His throne.

Ps 97.1-5 ***The LORD reigneth..*** A fire goeth before him, and burneth up his enemies round about... the earth saw, and trembled. The hills melted like wax ***at the presence of the LORD, at the presence of the Lord*** of the whole earth.

(But even the foregoing end time earthquake scenario shall pale into insignificance when His Presence is revealed at the last judgement. The very heaven and earth will not just be shaken. They shall flee from His face (Rev 20.11).)

Conclusion

So, the famous evangelist was wrong concerning the earthquake prediction of William Branham. Earthquakes most definitely *are* found in the Scripture. And are highly significant.

For the bride of Christ, they speak of the approaching Coming of the Lord for her. For the rest, they speak of the great wrath to be outpoured at that time, including the unparalleled earthquake(s) of Rev 6 & 16.

So, then:

“See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth (i.e. at Sinai) much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven: Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire.” (Heb 12.25-29)

CONCLUSION

Truly, these are solemn times!

Is the earthquake prophesied by William Branham part of the unparalleled earthquake(s) of Rev 6 & 16? He did not say. But if not, after seeing the solemn scale and effects of the Los Angeles earthquake prophecy, not only on the city itself but also on California, the USA and the world, then how indescribably terrifying will be the earthquake(s) of Rev 6 & 16!

Do not be like those of whom Jesus spoke just before His triumphal entry, "Oh Jerusalem! If you had only known the day of your visitation..."

At that time the majority of those who professed to be the people of God, including even their religious leaders, were not listening to the prophetic Voice.

As Jesus was leaving the temple for the last time, His disciples drew His attention to its exceptional stonework. But Jesus prophesied, "Verily I say unto you, there shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down." He then spoke of a coming time of destruction, and solemnly warned: "let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains" (Matt 24.1-16).

Some forty or so years later, in 67AD, the Roman general, Titus, began a 3-year siege of Jerusalem. The believers escaped. They believed and obeyed the prophetic Voice, fleeing when the opportunity arose. But those who refused the Voice paid a terrible price. The horrors endured by those remaining in the city are beyond description.

Will history repeat itself?

A vindicated prophet has warned that solemn judgement is at hand. Judgment is coming to the West Coast of America, with repercussions far beyond. It will surely come to pass. But, just as in the days of Jesus, the interval between the Voice and its fulfilment is often long enough for the careless to forget.

Are you listening to the Voice of the earthquakes all around? Are you paying heed to the Voice of the sign? Even many who call themselves Christians, claiming the new birth and the baptism and gifts of the Spirit, are not listening.

So, in the light of the sobering Voice of the great earthquakes all around, and of the solemn prophecy of William Branham, truly:

"Seeing all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought we to be in all holy conversation and manner of living." (2 P 3.11)

But those who are earnestly looking for His coming, abiding in Him and have oil in their lamps have nothing to fear:

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah. (Ps 46.1-3)

Indeed, for them, these solemn events speak of the soon coming of something very blessed:

...when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draws nigh. (Lk 21.28)

APPENDIX 1
Some deadly earthquakes in the last 100 years
(Taken from <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/>)

Earthquakes have killed hundreds of thousands in the 100 years since records were kept. Here are some:

27 February 2010

An 8.8 earthquake hits central Chile, the fifth largest ever recorded. It was almost 1,000 times more powerful than the one to hit Port-au-Prince in Haiti.

12 January 2010

About 230,000 die in and around the Haitian capital Port-au-Prince, as a 7.0 earthquake strikes.

12 May 2008:

Up to 87,000 killed or missing and as many as 370,000 injured by a 7.8 earthquake in just one county in China's south-western Sichuan province.

27 May 2006:

More than 5,700 die when a 6.2 quake hits Java, devastating Yogyakarta and surrounding areas.

8 October 2005:

A 7.6 earthquake strikes N Pakistan and Kashmir, killing over 73,000 and leaving millions homeless.

26 December 2004:

Hundreds of thousands are killed when a 9.2 Sumatra earthquake triggers tsunamis across the region.

26 December 2003:

More than 26,000 are killed when an earthquake destroys the city of Bam in southern Iran.

26 January 2001:

A 7.9 earthquake devastates much of Gujarat in NW India, killing nearly 20,000 with over 1m homeless.

21 September 1999:

Taiwan is hit by a 7.6 quake that kills nearly 2,500 and causes damage to every town on the island.

17 August 1999:

A 7.4 earthquake rocks Izmit and Istanbul, leaving more than 17,000 dead and many more injured.

17 January 1995:

The Hyogo quake hits Kobe in Japan, killing 6,430.

30 September 1993:

About 10,000 are killed in western and southern India.

21 June 1990:

Around 40,000 die in a tremor in the northern Iranian province of Gilan.

7 December 1988:

A 6.9 earthquake devastates north-west Armenia, killing 25,000.

19 September 1985:

A huge earthquake that razes buildings and kills 10,000 shakes Mexico City.

28 July 1976:

The Chinese city of Tangshan is reduced to rubble in a quake that claims at least 250,000.

23 December 1972:

Up to 10,000 are killed in the Nicaraguan capital Managua by a 6.5 earthquake.

31 May 1970:

An earthquake in the Peruvian Andes triggers a landslide burying Yungay and killing 66,000.

28 March 1964

The 9.2 Alaska earthquake and tsunami killed 128. About ½ m sq kms was vertically displaced, ranging from 11.5 m of uplift to 2.3 m of subsidence. Off SW Montague Island, there was subsidence of 13 - 15m over about 1/4m sq kms, The tsunami devastated many towns along the Gulf of Alaska, and left serious damage in Canada, West Coast of USA and Hawaii. The earthquake was felt over a large area of Alaska and parts of W Yukon and British Columbia. Seismic waves travelled the earth for weeks. Far away Texas and Florida were affected with vertical motions of up to 5 - 10 cm. These waves caused Seiches far from Alaska in enclosed bodies of water such as rivers, lakes, bayous, and protected harbours and waterways along the Gulf Coast of Louisiana and Texas, causing minor damage. Several fishing boats sunk. Oscillations in the level of water in wells were reported from as far away as South Africa.

26 July 1963:

A 6.9 earthquake strikes the Macedonian capital of Skopje killing 1,000 and leaving 100,000 homeless.

22 May 1960:

The world's strongest recorded earthquake, 9.5, devastates Chile. Thousands died. A 30ft tsunami eliminates entire villages and kills 61 hundreds of miles away in Hawaii.

1 September 1923:

The Great Kanto earthquake, with its epicentre just outside Tokyo, claims the lives of 142,800.

APPENDIX 2

11 March 2011 Japan Earthquake & Tsunami

The Earthquake

- There have been seven quakes at 8.0 or more on the Richter scale in Japan since 1891. Ten have resulted in major casualties, usually a few thousand. The exception is the 1923 Great Kanto earthquake, Tokyo, which killed 140,000. The 1995 Kobe earthquake caused about 6,500 deaths,
- The country lies on the infamous "Ring of Fire" encircling virtually the entire Pacific Rim. This is one of the most seismically active areas on earth. It accounts for about 20% of global quakes of 6.0 or over. Some kind of event occurs every 5 minutes, on average. The dense rock of the Ocean floor is being forced down (subducted) underneath Japan as it moves westwards.
- Even for Japan, very familiar with seismic hazards, the 11 March 2011 9.0 event was extraordinary. It was Japan's biggest ever and the 4th strongest in the world in the 100 years since records began.
- It ruptured a 150 x 50 miles patch of the earth's crust.
- 1,400 times stronger than the 6.8 1995 Kobe earthquake and nearly 8,000 times stronger than the 6.3 Christchurch one in New Zealand in February 2011
- The quake shifted the earth's axis by nearly 10in (25cm), not unusual for a major quake.
- It appears to have moved the main island of Japan by 8 feet.
- There were also some very strong foreshocks. These began two days before with a 7.2 event then a further three greater than 6.0.
- The main event was then followed by more than 50 powerful aftershocks between 5.0 and 7.1.

- In one area it looks as though the cement liquefied.
- 5.1m homes were left without power, and 1.4m without water.
- 500,000 fled their homes.
- Serious damage was caused to the Fukushima-Daiichi nuclear power plant, close to the epicentre of the earthquake. Tens of thousands in the surrounding area have since been evacuated.
- Houses and other buildings were ablaze across large swathes of Kesenuma, population 74,000.
- Japan's recovery bill has been estimated at \$300bn (£184bn), the most expensive disaster in history.
- Around 25,000 died.

The Tsunami

- An earthquake with the epicentre on the seabed rather than inland is like throwing a huge boulder into the water. The waves move away from the epicentre incredibly fast. In deep water they move at 500 mph. But as they get to shallower water, the front of the waves slows down, the back keep going at full speed. So what starts off as a ripple maybe 20 - 30 cm high ends up with a wave of up to 10 metres.
- That is what happened here. A 10m wave struck Sendai. As this part of Japan is very low-lying, it was swamped incredibly quickly.
- It caused major damage, flooding towns. Cars, ships, burning buildings and even whole villages were swept away across farmland by a vast wall of water.
- 4 passenger trains and a ship carrying 100 people were swept away.

- Even in the deep ocean, warning buoys recorded waves of 1m, which is considerable.
- Tsunami waves reached out across the Pacific at 500/600 miles an hour, towards the Philippines, Hawaii, New Zealand and even N & S America.
- The wave was, at one time, higher than some Pacific islands.

Could be 1,000-year event

- According to a leading seismologist, this could have been the strongest event in the area in 1,150 years. There is evidence of another giant wave in 869AD triggered by an offshore quake with waters reaching some 4km inland, and two earlier tsunamis on the same scale in the last 3,000 years.

An even bigger one to come?

- The massive 26 December 2004 Sumatra earthquake was followed by many others above 7.0. Some generated tsunamis and it is thought they occurred because of the 2004 quake, on increased stresses along the tectonic plate boundary west of Sumatra and Java.
- Scientists are now trying to assess if the 9.0 Japan earthquake has increased the risk of another tremor powerful enough to generate a tsunami or altered the chances of a major tremor under Tokyo and the Kanto plain on which it sits, which is home to 25% of Japan's population, as well as its administrative and commercial centre.
- Big quakes struck the Kanto area in 1703, 1855 and 1923, the last claiming 140,000 lives.
- Seismic activity has definitely increased since the 9.0 event, with small earthquakes in some parts of Japan increasing 10 fold. So, hazard assessment is a pressing priority.
- Prior to the recent 9.0 earthquake, it was thought [Tokyo had a 30% chance in the next 30 years](#) of an event (7.0-plus) that would test even the walls and pillars of highly earthquake-resistant buildings. Following the 9.0 tremor and its aftershocks, it is currently estimated there are modest increases in stress on some of the faults just to the south of Tokyo, so the hazard is either unchanged or higher than before. But surprises do occur. The size of the recent event was one example. The big concern is for Tokyo. At present, the 30% risk calculated 4 years ago has certainly not gone down.

APPENDIX 3

“...the last day of Pompeii”

On 24 August 79 AD, probably the best known volcanic eruption ever took place. Mount Vesuvius, on the west coast of Italy, near present-day Naples, erupted. It disgorged burning gases and ash that swallowed nearby Pompeii, suffocating its victims and covering them in ash, in places up to 65 feet deep.

But how is a volcanic eruption relevant in a prophecy describing the impact of an impending earthquake on Los Angeles?

When William Branham spoke in 1965, the most powerful earthquake ever recorded had ruptured a 600-mile segment of coast in Chile only five years before. It killed over 5,000 and tsunamis drowned hundreds more in Hawaii and Japan. Would not this be a good example to describe the coming devastation? Or the Alaskan earthquake of 1964, the second most powerful ever recorded? Yet he said Pompeii.

Why? What similarities are there between Pompeii and Los Angeles?

The 750-mile-long San Andreas fault, which rises from the earth on the edge of the Salton Sea at California's southern tip, disappears again beneath the Pacific in N California at the Mendocino Triple Junction. There the Pacific and North American Plates are joined by a third, much smaller, the Gorda. Further north, the Gorda meets the Juan de Fuca Plate. Slowly but surely, the latter are disappearing. As they collide with the North American Plate, they plunge down under the larger plate into the interior of the earth. This is called subduction, and the fault line where it is happening is called a subduction zone.

Until recently, scientists thought this particular subduction zone, the Cascadia, was inactive. But now they are finding evidence to the contrary.

In the Pacific Northwest, by the time the ocean slab is about 80 miles below the continental surface, it has travelled 150/200 miles inland. At this depth, the rock is over 1,000 degrees C. It begins to release steam and other volatile compounds that rise into the crust of the earth, causing parts of the mantle and crust to melt. This magma is stored in huge chambers about the same distance from the coast as the subducting plate has travelled. And on the earth's surface, above the magma chambers, is a line of active volcanoes.

All the volcanoes of Cascadia, including Mt Saint Helens, are of a type called stratovolcanoes. Steep and rugged, they are famous for spectacular vertical eruptions that carry pumice, ash, and hot gases miles into the stratosphere (sometimes to 100,000 feet or more).

Vesuvius, the destroyer of Pompeii, is a stratovolcano.

As the magma accumulates, the rocks of the subducting plates can become strained as they bend and plunge downward. When they reach breaking point, a segment of the fault ruptures, sending seismic waves through the magma reservoirs under the volcanoes. Like the violent shaking of a bottle of pop, the 'belching' of super-heated steam and gas disturbs the unstable magma, often causing an eruption. Even a small quake can trigger scores of sympathetic vibrations in volcanic regions, causing magma to rise nearer and nearer to the surface.

Volcanologists believe a major eruption, such as one triggered by a large tectonic earthquake, could spread ash over about 500,000 sq miles, including eight US states and three Canadian provinces. California would be one of those states. There is evidence it has happened at least once in the past.

Scientists for the US Geological Survey are sounding the alarm: "From the Sierra to Seattle, volcanoes long thought dormant are showing signs of life. Since 1978, California's Long Valley caldera [an ancient collapsed volcano east of San Francisco], which once dropped ash on the **East** (!) Coast, and Mt Shasta have both seen swarms of earthquakes. [The caldera now bulges atop a magma chamber estimated at 200 cu miles. Over 2,300 quakes p week rock the area, some as great as 4.9, with no signs of abating]. And, of course, in 1980 Mt St Helens proved categorically that the Cascade volcanoes are indeed active. Mt St Helens had been silent for 123 years... it blew only seven days after we noted its first earthquake. Any of these Cascade volcanoes could do the same."

Could this be the reason for the reference to Pompeii in the prophecy? Will the destruction of Los Angeles be caused by a major tectonic earthquake that also triggers volcanic eruptions, smothering the area with deadly burning gases and ash?

APPENDIX 4

Here are two recent (slightly edited) articles on potential earthquake devastation on the West Coast of America. The first relates to the Northwest (Oregon & Washington), the area of the Cascade volcanoes. The other relates to California.

Experts say an earthquake surely will devastate the Northwest

Richard Read, The Oregonian, 24 June 2011

Experts estimate at least 5,000 Oregonians will die if a quake and tsunami similar to the 11 March 2011 tsunami and 9-magnitude earthquake in Japan hit the state.

The only question is when.

Experts are ready to place odds on the likelihood of a giant earthquake rocking the Northwest.

Within the next 50 years, they say, Washington and N Oregon face a 10 - 15 % probability of an offshore quake powerful enough to kill thousands and launch a tsunami that would level coastal cities. Off southern Oregon, the probability of an 8+ earthquake is 37 %, according to Oregon State University's Chris Goldfinger, one of the world's top experts on subduction-zone quakes.

Goldfinger and other authorities who spoke at a Portland conference this week say the Northwest is dangerously unprepared for a massive quake they consider inevitable at some point. At least 300,000 Oregon children attend school in buildings vulnerable to collapse when the Big One comes...

Earthquake experts are speaking with new urgency after the March 11 Japanese event that killed more than 24,000, shattering long-held assumptions on safety and survival. ...

Researchers say tectonic plates off Oregon's coast are locked in a slow-motion collision, accumulating energy that will ultimately be released when they slip. An earthquake in the Cascadia subduction zone could launch a tsunami resembling Japan's, flattening Seaside and other low-lying cities.

Oregon is not nearly as prepared as Japan for a major earthquake, let alone a tsunami, said experts at the conference. Oregon stores much of its liquid fuel, for example, in tanks on soil prone to liquefaction.

Japan built sea walls and other fortifications to withstand a tsunami from an 8.2 quake, the maximum expected along the NE coast. But one scientist predicted 10 years ago a 9.0 earthquake. "Nobody listened," Goldfinger told the meeting. "They just prepared for the wrong thing."

Goldfinger and colleagues have advanced the new field of paleoseismology, examining sediments and rocks for signs of ancient earthquakes. They took samples recently in Japan's Sendai plain, confirming that the 869 Jogan tsunami swept farther than the March 11 wave, stopped only by hills 3 miles inland.

The team has used similar techniques to date 19 undersea ruptures in the last 10,000 years along the entire tectonic-plate margin from California to British Columbia. Twenty-two more earthquakes have occurred along the southern parts of the Cascadia zone off Oregon, making such massive ruptures rather routine events.

Cascadia quakes seem to trigger activity along the San Andreas Fault line to the south.

The most recent Cascadia quake occurred Jan 26, 1700. The roughly 9-magnitude quake sent a tsunami to Japan. That was 311 years ago, giving the Juan de Fuca and North American plates more than 300 years to strain against each other off Oregon, amassing energy for release. The farther south along the NW coast, the more frequently quakes occur.

An 8.5 earthquake would kill an estimated minimum 5,000 Oregon residents, said the geohazards team leader at the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries. Many would probably die in unreinforced masonry structures prone to collapse, she said, including school buildings.

Earthquake experts see the 'Big One' getting bigger

Los Angeles Times, 20 Oct, 2010

The "Big One" forecast for the San Andreas Fault could end up being bigger than experts previously thought.

Recent research showing that a section of the fault is long overdue for a major earthquake has some scientists saying the southern portion is capable of a 8.1 earthquake that could run 340 miles from Monterey County (in central California) to the Salton Sea.

That's significantly stronger and longer than the southern San Andreas' last major rupture, in 1857. [It] would cause much more damage because ... a larger area would be exposed to the quake and the shaking would last longer.

Whether such a quake would happen in our lifetime had been a subject of hot debate among scientists. That's because until recently, experts believed that a part of the southern San Andreas that runs through the Carrizo Plain 100 miles NW of Los Angeles would remain dormant for at least another century.

But that rosy hypothesis seemed to be shattered by an August report in the journal *Geology* by researchers at UC Irvine and Arizona State University, which said that even that section is far overdue for a major quake. "The next earthquake could be sooner than later," Lisa Grant Ludwig, a study co-author and UC Irvine earthquake expert, said.

According to U.S. Geological Survey seismologist Lucy Jones, who was not involved in the study, it is possible that all 340 miles of the southern San Andreas could rupture.

Such a scenario would trigger an 8.1 earthquake, said Thomas Jordan, director of the Southern California Earthquake Centre, a calculation with which Jones agreed. "My concern is that we will get a series of large earthquakes along the San Andreas Fault," said Jordan, who also was not involved in the study.

Jones refers to such a megaquake as a "wall-to-wall" quake.

The "walls" are the boundaries of the southern San Andreas, which begins in the Salton Sea and ends in Parkfield in Monterey County. Scientists consider [this] as one segment because it behaves the same — it rarely rumbles, but when it is awakened, the shaking can be devastating. In contrast, the section of the fault north of Parkfield up to Hollister in San Benito County behaves differently. [It] moves at a constant creep; because stress is relieved regularly, large quakes don't occur there.

The southern San Andreas has not had a large quake for more than a century. The sleeping giant has been building stress for so long that it could snap at any moment, experts said.

Grant Ludwig said Saturday that such a wall-to-wall earthquake is not assured. But she said it's "a possibility that should be considered and previously was not."

The last Big One ripped through Southern California in 1857, when an estimated 7.9 quake ruptured 200 miles of fault between Monterey and San Bernardino (west of Los Angeles) counties. But it wasn't a wall-to-wall quake: It stopped around the Cajon Pass (west of Los Angeles), ... probably because the fault to the south had shaken a few decades earlier, in 1812, Jones said. Because the 1812 quake had relieved tectonic tension in the Cajon Pass, it effectively stopped the 1857 quake from moving farther south.

"Can I imagine the 1857 earthquake happening again and stopping at the Cajon Pass? Probably not," Jones said. "Once you have a big slip, you're more likely to move along down the fault," she said. "If the rupture has been made ... that's a lot of momentum that will keep the rupture moving down the fault."

A magnitude 8.1 wall-to-wall quake would release twice the energy of the 1857 quake, Jordan said.

The San Andreas has long been considered one of the most dangerous faults in Southern California, in part because of its length. Not only do longer faults produce bigger quakes, but they also emit a type of shaking energy that can travel longer distances.

APPENDIX 5

The Natural World & the Voice of the Earthquake

The Bible says an earthquake is the Voice of God. How strange that while man does not heed it, the animal world does.

Here are three reports of the reaction of the natural world to the Voice of God:

- A BBC report on the 2009 L'Aquila earthquake in Italy.
- An adapted Fox News report on the tsunami after the 2004 earthquake off the coast of Sumatra.
- A report from an Indian newspaper referred to by William Branham in a 1958 sermon.

Toads can 'predict earthquakes' and seismic activity BBC, 31/3/2010

Common toads appear to sense an impending earthquake and will flee their colony days before it strikes.

The evidence comes from a population of toads that left their breeding colony three days before an earthquake that struck L'Aquila in Italy in 2009.

How toads sensed the quake is unclear, but most breeding pairs and males fled, despite being 74km from the quake's epicentre, say biologists in the *Journal of Zoology*.

It is hard to objectively and quantifiably study how animals respond to seismic activity, in part because earthquakes are unpredictable. Some studies have been done on domestic animals, but measuring the response of wild animals is more difficult. Even those that have been shown to react, such as fish, rodents and snakes tend to do so shortly before, rather than days ahead.

However, Dr Grant of the Open University, in Milton Keynes, UK, was studying colonies of common toads in Italy around the time a massive earthquake struck. Her studies included a 29-day period before, during and after the 6.3 earthquake on 6 April 2009 close to L'Aquila, about 60 miles north-east of Rome.

Dr Grant was studying toads 74km away in San Ruffino Lake, when she recorded the toads behaving oddly.

Five days before the earthquake, the number of male common toads in the colony fell by 96%. That is highly unusual: once they have bred, they normally remain active in large numbers at breeding sites until spawning has finished. Yet spawning had barely begun before the earthquake struck. Also, no weather event could be linked to the toads' disappearance.

Three days before the earthquake, the number of breeding pairs also suddenly dropped to zero. While spawn was found at the site up to six days before the earthquake, and again six days after it, no spawn was laid during the earthquake period - from the first main shock to the last aftershock.

"Our study is one of the first to document animal behaviour before, during and after an earthquake," says Dr Grant. She believes the toads fled to higher ground, possibly where they would be at less risk from rock falls, landslides and flooding.

Sensing danger

Exactly how toads sense impending seismic activity is unclear.

The shift in behaviour coincided with disruptions in the ionosphere, the uppermost electromagnetic layer of the earth's atmosphere, which researchers detected around the time of the quake. Such changes have in turn been linked by some to the release of radon gas, or gravity waves, prior to an earthquake.

In the case of the L'Aquila quake, Dr Grant could not determine what caused the disruptions in the ionosphere. However, her findings do suggest toads can detect something. "Our findings suggest that toads are able to detect pre-seismic cues such as the release of gases and charged particles, and use these as a form of earthquake early warning system," she says.

Tsunami Animals: A Sixth Sense?
Adapted from Fox News, January 9, 2005
<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,143737,00.html>

The deadly tsunami spawned by the massive December 26, 2004 9.0 earthquake off the coast of Sumatra killed up to 150,000 humans.

But the effect on the animal kingdom was far, far less. Why?

The stories of wild animals fleeing the deadly tsunami before it struck are near legendary. Animals most certainly sensed something. In Thailand elephants carried tourists to safety before the coastal areas were inundated. Witnesses in Sri Lanka reported three elephants running from the shore to higher ground In Yala National Park an hour before the tsunami hit.

And elephants weren't the only animals turning from the shore. Birds, monkeys and domestic animals were all acting differently on the morning of December 26. Other accounts refer to bats — which normally sleep upside-down during the day — being very active about half an hour before the wave, and two Doberman Pinschers who refused to go for their daily jog along the beach about 90 minutes before the tsunami. Some visitors to the Park were trying to feed bananas to some monkeys when the tsunami came ashore but they were totally disinterested, staring up confused as if reacting to something.

Given the destructiveness of that disaster, surprisingly few dead animals were recovered. Few animal carcasses were seen in the places affected by the disaster, with no reports of elephant, deer, leopard, black bear or sloth bear carcasses.

An example experienced by William Branham in India
(Taken from, "Will the Church go before the Tribulation?" 9 March, 1958, Jeffersonville)

"This morning I was speaking of the oncoming judgements. And tonight I wish to continue. We can feel the hot winds of the nearing judgment of the Almighty God. As we begin to feel these things, it behoves us to kindly watch where we're living in the hour that we're passing through.

And some time ago, it was my privilege to visit India. And just before I come to India, they had the great earthquake. And I was reading in the newspapers in India that... how that about two days before the earthquake come, they seemed to know that something was wrong. All the little birds that live in the crevasses in the big buildings and lived along the great stone walls... And all the little birds that had their nest in those crevasses left the walls. And all of the cattle that usually stood around the big buildings in the afternoon in the shade and around the great stone walls, for about two days before the earthquake, all these animals and little birds went out in the middle of the field to stand.

You see, ... God was taking care of His little birds and His animals. You know the same God that directed them in the ark in the early days when they was destroyed by water at the preaching of Noah, that same God still lives and reigns today, and He has His control of His beings.

And I was thinking, if God was so mindful of His little birds, and His cattle, and sheep, to take them away from destruction before it struck, how much more mindful of His children, who has been borned of His Spirit and washed in His Blood. He is mindful for them. And as He warned the little birds to go from their dwelling places, I truly believe that He's warning His people today. As we see the great signs of His coming at hand, I believe that God is warning His people to come together. And a great calling out in this last day..."

APPENDIX 6

Excerpt from Appendix 1 of my article entitled "Restorationism"

In December 1998 some of the US leaders (*i.e. of the emerging "prophetic movement"*) (including Rick Joyner and Bob Jones) gave a series of "prophecies" about coming natural catastrophes. They predicted an earthquake in Southern California that would cause it to sink into the ocean, possibly after being blown up by terrorist nuclear bombs. Also, a good portion of the Midwest was to be submerged, the water almost covering the St. Louis Arch. They were to begin in 9 months.

Joyner was so impressed he sent tapes out as part of his "Prophetic Tape of the Month Club".

None came true.

In June 1999, in www.do-you-love-me.org/wsomers/laquake.html, ("LA Earthquake: Answers To FAQs"), Joyner attempted to explain:

Question: *When do we think that the California earthquake that we prophesied in our January 1998 Prophetic Tape of the Month is coming?*

Answer: *I do not know anyone who has the timing on this. Some misunderstood Bob Jones to say that it was coming in nine months (from New Year when the tape was made). When I listened to the tape again it was easy to understand how Bob's statement could be interpreted that way, but **it is not what he meant**. When he said, "we have nine months" he was trying to say that **it would not come for nine months**. In a visitation that Bob had last fall he was told this quake **would not come before the next Day of Atonement**. He was also told each Day of Atonement we would be told if we have another year, but he would only show us **one year at a time**. I must apologise for letting this tape go out **without correcting** this potentially confusing statement."*

This is what was said on the original cassette:

*"Prophets stand in a window and see what will happen in the world. But now, the Lord has told Bob to step out of the window into it. The vision that he has received over many years **is not going to delay any longer**. He has got a message that **we have about nine months** of preparation, of putting on Christ for **what is about to happen**. I don't think we have until 2000. I think we've got about nine months. Some of these things, like Mammoth Lake, are going to happen before that. The trembling and things are going to happen. **Some of the major things aren't going to happen for nine months.**"*

So, when Jones said we had 9 months, he meant nothing was going to happen for at least 9 months. And the not-for-nine-months statement could mean it wouldn't happen for years. But, Jones said, "we have about 9 months"—which implies that after 9 months things will begin to happen. And how can Joyner apologise for letting the tape go out uncorrected? How do you correct a Holy Spirit-inspired prophecy?

On the same tape Jones goes on to say:

"God will warn. He will warn those cities. I've been telling people for a year to get out of Los Angeles. They tell me that they're really brave out there. (sigh) I'm not that brave. Because that bravery is against God. If I lived in Los Angeles, I'd get out. I want to tell you something. The earthquake is not the only thing you got to worry about and I'm not sure it will be first. In a vision, I saw suitcases being smuggled in by terrorists into California. They had nuclear bombs in them."

After this tape had gone out, people started asking Joyner if they should get out of Southern California. His answer was:

*"Bob Jones has warned **some** people that it is time to leave Southern California. I have told people to **seek the Lord** and leave **only if He directs them to**. However, I have been told that the time is soon coming when I will have to begin telling people that **they should only stay if they hear from the Lord to stay**. I also personally feel that I am to invest in some kind of retreat*

*property in Southern California. I have been told that I am not to abandon the area, and that I must be willing to spend time there doing what I can to **help the church** in that region."*

How confusing! Living in Los Angeles is "bravery against God." But you only need to leave if God "directs" you because Jones is only warning "some " to leave. In fact, God might direct you to "invest in some kind of retreat property" in Southern California and not abandon the area.

Question: *Do I believe that this quake can still be averted?*

Answer: *No. However, as I shared last New Years Eve, it is my conviction that the destructive power of this quake can be greatly reduced, by repentance and intercession. He also showed me that it can be delayed if we will **honour the fathers and mothers of the faith from that region** which have so powerfully blessed our nation...If a profound repentance does not come, much of the Los Angeles basin will be destroyed to the point where the ocean will lap at the base of the mountains in Pasadena. The buildings in downtown Los Angeles will sink into the earth like stones in a jar of sand when it is shaken...
...Then Abraham asked the Lord if He would spare Sodom if there were just ten righteous men found there; the Lord said that He would spare the whole place just for them. We do not know at what point the Lord will relent and spare Los Angeles, but **there is a delusion in much of the church** now that is presuming on God's grace...Pride comes before the fall, and there is **an arrogance toward the Lord that has even permeated much of the church in Southern California**. One way that this is manifested is **the disregard of His warnings**, which He sent in the previous quake, and even the tendency to believe that they can handle them."*

So, if the "fathers and mothers of the faith" from the LA region are "honoured," it won't be hit as hard as it would be. But, the churches of the fathers and mothers of the faith in Southern California are delusional about God's grace, prideful, and display an arrogance towards the Lord manifested by their "disregard" for the warnings of Joyner, who is telling them that **maybe** "some" should get out of LA before he moves there to help them!

Very clear!