

ANOTHER EARTHQUAKE

by Fubara Ibama

“In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men” (Matthew 28:1-4).

But there was another earthquake that God introduced into the world. It had a different effect. When Jesus rose from the dead, there was an earthquake which subdued the forces of darkness who tried in vain to hinder His resurrection. It opened the grave. Grave is the worst physical limitation. When one dies, there is nothing that individual can do. Things are set, final. One will need a supernatural intervention to re-start that life.

We have seen or heard of several earthquakes in different geographic locations at different times. All the earthquakes we have known so far were destructive and devastating. Here are some examples of major earthquakes:

- ❖ Southern Chile (May 22, 1960) magnitude 9.5
 - ❖ Prince William Sound (March 28, 1964) magnitude 9.2
 - ❖ Coast of Sumatra (December 26, 2004) magnitude 9.1
 - ❖ Kamchatka, Asia (November 4, 1952) magnitude 9.0
 - ❖ Chile (February 27, 2010) magnitude 8.8
 - ❖ Coast of Ecuador (January 31, 1906) magnitude 8.8
 - ❖ Rat Islands (February 4, 1965) magnitude 8.7
 - ❖ Northern Sumatra (March 28, 2005) magnitude 8.6
 - ❖ Assam/Tibet (August 15, 1950) magnitude 8.6
 - ❖ Andreanof Islands (March 9, 1957) magnitude 8.6
- (earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/world/10_largest_world.php)

All of these earthquakes wrecked havoc, pain and untold suffering on the human family.

The circular world calls such earthquakes, ‘acts of God’. This is very wrong. It is not in His character to destroy lives and property. In Luke 9:56, the Bible says, “For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them.” Also, in John 10:10, the Bible says, “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” From the above scriptures, we can see the clear distinction between the works of God and that of the devil. Satan is the taker and God is the giver; God creates but satan imitates and whereas God gives life, satan destroys. Satan is the oppressor, the causer of pain, death and destruction. The first step to destruction is sin. Yes, we were born in sin but satan influences us to practice sin so that we may come under God’s just judgment –

“For the wages of sin death.” From the very beginning, God taught us responsibility and the consequence of our actions.

Earthquake is no respecter of persons. It affects everyone, every building in the vicinity – whether it is a million dollar building or a pauper’s shanty – they will all experience the devastating effect of the earthquake. But this earthquake of which I speak is to destroy the works of the devil and bring us to a position of honor and glory just as He had intended from the beginning. When God decided to bring Israel out of Egypt, one of the signs He showed Moses was the Burning Bush. The bush was on fire but no destruction came to it. Not a single leaf was consumed in the flame. I was told a story of a Christian gathering having an intense time of worship and the Holy Ghost descended upon that building in the form of fire. The neighbors saw this heavenly sight and immediately called the fire service because they thought the house was on fire. They wanted to save those ‘poor’ Christians from being burnt to ashes. When the fire trucks arrived, they did not see or smell any kind of fire. Our God is a consuming fire! It is never for destruction of lives and property but to set the captives free. Of course, I suppose we are familiar with the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego who were thrown into the fire. The fire burnt up those that threw them in but all the fire did was to take care of their bondages and quickened their feet to a Holy Ghost dance with the fourth Man. In case you are wondering about the potency of the fire, those who threw them in were sucked in and consumed. God warned not to touch His anointed and do no harm to His prophets. He told Saul of Tarsus not to kick against the pricks as he (Saul) persecuted the people of God. Every enemy of God’s children in the form of sin, sickness, depression, poverty, etc. will be destroyed by the manifest presence of Jehovah.

Remember, the chief priests asked permission from Pilate to seal the tomb. In addition, they posted Roman soldiers to guard that all-important tomb. They did everything humanly possible to prevent the resurrection of Christ. But when the special earthquake came, it destroyed the seal that the craftsmen painstakingly put over the tomb. It dealt with the guards and rolled away the heavy stone from the mouth of the grave. The stumbling block was displaced and relocated. The Spirit of God quickened Jesus from the dead for without the resurrection of Christ, we are hopelessly doomed. As God is ready to bring you out of your grave, nothing can withstand His power. Nothing can be a hindrance to you. You are coming out! I said you are coming out in Jesus name! There may be a little discomfort and re-arrangement of priorities but you are coming out. Your dead dreams and visions which the Lord gave you will come alive. “But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you” (Romans 8:11).

Effect of Praise and Worship

Paul and Silas were caught and thrown in prison for helping a demonized girl that needed help. But instead of succumbing to the circumstance, they entered into high praises and prayer. The Lord came down to receive their praises and His presence evidently caused an earthquake which broke the chains, opened the prison gates and

set them free. Whatever the bondage might be, God is sending a special earthquake your way. It does not matter whether it is a costly bondage or a cheap one. The earthquake sent from God knows exactly what to do. It has its orders from God. "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:8).

We have been given Authority

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8). The power in this context is interpreted as Dynamite power. We can use dynamite to blow up just about any building, rock or mountain and what we have inside us is far more than dynamite. Can you imagine the kind of power stored within you – a believer? Activate the enormous power in you and bring satan's kingdom to ruins! We have been set up to do maximum damage to satan's dark kingdom and his works. We activate the power by receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit and walking in love.

The Ministry of Angels

God has graciously given us the ministry of angels. He says, "The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them" (Psalm 34:7). He further stated in Hebrews 12:22 that we have an innumerable company of angels that are protecting and serving us (Psalm 91:11; Hebrews 1:13-14). But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" God provided everything we need in this life to succeed in all facets of life. Let's get to work!