



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

The Trembling Earth

Creation ... The Preacher With Many Sermons

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard, Psalm 19:1-3.

Man is pleased to call the earth "Terra Firma" -- the firm ground. He feels secure when standing upon it. It is a term used frequently by seafarers. When they step off the ship and stand upon firm ground they feel safe, no longer threatened by death as they felt themselves to be while standing on the heaving deck.

But is the earth so firm?? Earthquakes, of which there have been quite a few recently, remind us that it is not. Earthquakes tell us that the giant sphere upon which we live is not invulnerable but can be shaken and rent like any other part of creation. Despite its size there is a power that can juggle it as a child shakes its rattle.

Earthquakes tell us that the earth is subject to decay

Earthquakes are but the death tremors of a creation cursed in consequence of man's sin. "For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now." Romans 8:22. That groaning is the groaning of death. Earth shall not remain forever but shall pass away (a term we often use of death). "And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hand: They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail." Hebrews 1:10-12. (See also Matthew 5:18, 24:35; II Peter 3:10; Revelation 21:1)

Earthquakes are foretastes of the great and terrible day of the Lord

The end of the world shall be as one great world-wide earthquake. "See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, 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." Hebrews 12:25-26.

In contrast to the shaking earth where men falsely feel safe there is the unshakable refuge of the soul.

- "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock."
- "And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land." Matthew 7:24-25, Isaiah 32:2.



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How will your place of refuge fare in the great and terrible day of the Lord? Only one place can withstand the power of God's wrath and that place is the refuge He himself has prepared for sinners -- the Lord Jesus Christ, God's appointed Saviour for men.

*The Lord's our Rock, in Him we hide,
A shelter in the time of storm;
Secure, whatever ill betide:
A shelter in the time of storm.*

*Oh, Jesus is a rock in a weary land,
A weary land, a weary land;
Oh, Jesus is a rock in a weary land,
A shelter in the time of storm.*