

## <<Great Earthquake >>

Today, we are going to learn about the Great Earthquake. The book of Revelation tells us about the Great Earthquake that will occur on the Last day. Let's see this matter from passages below.

### Revelation 16:18-19

#### **18**

And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, *and* so great.

#### **19**

And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.

According to Revelation, ever since human being lives on the earth, the great earthquake occurs and that led to the fall cities and nations. So, we want to understand the meaning of such description.

In fact, many earthquakes already occurred all around the world. Therefore, we cannot understand that this passage, talk only about a large earthquake will occur in the future. However, Jesus told his disciples to understand the meaning of parables, so we would like to understand the parable of such great earthquakes.

<Earthquake is a parable of shaking and persecution>

Relating to the Last day, another part of Bible also says earthquake occurs in the future as below:

Matthew 24:7-10

**7**

For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

**8**

All these *are* the beginning of sorrows.

**9**

Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

**10**

And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

As above, in the book of Matthew, it talks about the earthquakes that will occur on the last day and Christian will be afflicted, killed, and hated by all nations for Jesus name's sake.

Also, it also says many Christians will offend, betray, and hate each other. These passages tell that the faith of churches

and Christians will be fallen as a result of persecution and shaking.

Therefore, we can understand that the earthquake bible tells about is a parable of shaking and persecution to churches and Christians. If a real earthquake occurs, then, town or house will fall. House or town is the parable of church or church denomination. So, it indicates in parable that church or church denomination will fall or lose faith among the persecution or shake of faith.

<Why earthquake, shaking of faith or persecution will be allowed?>

We understand that earthquake, in other words, shaking of faith and persecutions will occur on the Last day. However, why does God permit this kind of persecution or shaking of faith against the church? That is our simple question. Related to this, the book of Hebrew says below;

Hebrew 12:25-29

**25**

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:

**26**

Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.

**27**

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.

**28**

Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

**29**

For our God *is* a consuming fire.

Let's take a look at these passages.

**25**

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:

There written “**See that ye refuse not him that speaketh.**”

It's highly possible that the great earthquake will occur and many Christians will be shaken and persecuted on the Last day. If it happens, what is the important point? What do we need not to be shaken and fallen? As passages say, it is important to **refuse not him that speaketh,**

Listen to Holy Spirit's voice. People who don't listen to him will be fallen away on the Last Day. On the other hand, people who listen to him can withstand.

## 26

Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.

In this passage, there written the heaven and earth are shaken. Heaven and earth are parable of the church. Concerning Heaven and earth, they are written on the part of Abraham as below:

### Genesis 22:17

That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which *is* upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;

Abraham is an ancestor of all Israel.

God said Israel is like stars of the heaven and sand upon the sea shore. Therefore, All Israeli and Christians, Israel of the new testament, are also Stars in the sky and sand on the earth. Therefore, heaven and earth are parable of the church that Christians belong to.

What is the difference between earth and heaven? Earth is a place belonging to the world, so sand means Christians belonging to the world. They will be shaken and fallen on the Last day.

“I shake ... also heaven.”

This passage means: On the Last day, however, there described not only the earth but also the heaven and heavenly church will be shaken. Even churches which are said to have orthodox faith and serve to God earnestly will be shaken and revealed its actual situation.

It's weird to say the heaven will be shaken. Normally, even if any large earthquake occurs, heaven will never be shaken. Even if large building or house are shaken, bird or airplane on the sky will never be shaken. Therefore, it is surely a parable. Therefore, we may understand that on the last day, there will be a large global-scale earthquake which causes shaking and persecution of all of the churches. There will be no exception. Revelation Chapter 3 tells about it.

**Revelation 3:10**

Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

According to the passage above, on the hour of tribulation in another word, time of tribulation will come to all of the world and whole church. There is no church rapture before the tribulation.

12:27 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.

In this passage, there written the reason why large earthquake, shaking, and persecution will occur. That is to remain Christian that cannot be shaken again, due to the earthquake.

We have to understand this point not from the perspective of people but that of God. Our Christian's perspective is earthquake, persecution or tribulation won't come true.

However, that is different from the perspective of God. He pays great attention to those who remain firmly after the earthquake or time of tribulation. Christians who are fallen by an earthquake or betray God or Jesus Christ during the

time of tribulation are no more than that. God doesn't watch carefully on such people.

12:28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

So we should prepare for the day that shaking and persecution will occur, when we plan to build the kingdom, that is, church. On that day, if our house or church we built is fallen, that is meaningless. We should build the kingdom, that is, a church which cannot be shaken.

<What is treasure?>

Well, the above word is quoted from Haggai. Let's have a look of it.

### **Haggai 2:6-8**

**6**

For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it *is* a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry *land*;

The time of all church is shaken by an earthquake, the day of

tribulation is coming.

## 7

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.

Why does God cause earthquake on the last day, and let the time of tribulation come and let shaking go? The reason is written here. That is the perspective of God. That is to make all treasure from all nation come before God. Treasure means people who follow God during the tribulation and persecution. They are the treasure in front of God. Therefore, in other words, earthquake and tribulation will occur under God's plan.

## 8

The silver *is* mine, and the gold *is* mine, saith the LORD of hosts.

In this passage, the treasure is defined as gold and silver. Those are smelted in a blast furnace. Like this, faithful people refined in "fire" of the severe trial are gold and silver before God. If we consider the first coming of Christ, that may be understandable. At His first coming, a crowd of 4-5 thousand people gathered to listen to Jesus Christ, but they were not treasure before God. For, they changed their

attitude to Jesus Christ after all even though they believed in Jesus at first. They heard the rumor such as “Jesus is cultic” or “He is Beelzebub, the prince of demon”, and then they changed their attitude completely. In the end, they assisted in crucify Jesus. They are the people to be shaken by an earthquake and are not treasure.

On the other hand, there were people who stay and follow Jesus. They are disciples including original 12 disciples. They followed Jesus faithfully until the end. They are the very treasure before God and are gold or silver. On the last day, we will know this story will repeat again. During the time of tribulation, those who stay and follow God are the very treasure before God.

<God watches on treasure>

On the day of the first coming of Christ, God obviously watched on a small number of people who will be a treasure but didn't watch other people to be shaken or fallen. Please note the same matter will happen at His second coming. We can see the same story that God watch the people of treasure on other passage. Let's

see below:

Matthew 13:44

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

Let's read this passage. In this passage, man means Christ. When He found the treasure hidden in a field, **he for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.**

That is to say, he buys the field, atone the sin of the world with his life price. Within this story, the important point is that not all of the field is a treasure.

Not all people and not all Christians are treasure before God. They are as a field, be bought up and offered atonement by Jesus. So, they have right to enter the kingdom of heaven. However, Jesus's eye watches on treasure and people following him even if persecution. Furthermore, in this passage, there written the real purpose of the atonement of Jesus, sacrifice of Christ are for to acquire the small amount of treasure. God's true intention and purpose are for treasure, and he watches on it. In this passage, this kind of story is written.

<Choosing and selection to be done to Christians in end time>

Therefore, we should understand the truth, fundamental fact about last day. That is to say, the fact that there will definitely be choosing, selection, shaking and distinction. Many scripture passages talk about this matter.

Today's passage tells us about the selection of Christians through the earthquake and shaking. But, not only this part, Bible also tells us about the selection of Christians on end days as per below:

1. Wheat and tares (Matthew 13)
2. Good fish and bad fish (Matthew 13:47)
3. Wise virgins and foolish virgins (Matthew 25)

Wheat/tares, fish, and virgins are parable of Christians. Wheat is bread, which is parable of Christians who grew up by word of God. Fish is Christians who lives in water of Holy Spirit. Virgins are parable of Christians who marry to Christ.

Each passage shows, there will be screening and selecting at the second coming of Christ. Some Christians will be selected, others will not for their Sin and disobedience to God.

So, we should prepare for the Last day, with these understandings.