



Pastor's Comments

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Northampton Assembly of God

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Earthquakes—A Sign?

The 8.8 magnitude earthquake off the coast of Chile was 800 times stronger than the one that struck off the coast of Japan less than 24 hours earlier and the one that took more than 220,000 lives in Haiti six weeks before that. Many wonder if these earthquakes along with the **rising number of major quakes** around the world in recent years, **signal** that we are **nearing the soon return of Jesus Christ**, for when Jesus was asked, “*What shall be the sign of thy coming*,” one of the signs He gave was “*earthquakes in divers (different) places*” (Matthew 24:7).

There are at least **three things** about earthquakes that **underscore their significance as signs** of the soon-coming of Jesus Christ. The **worldwide upsurge** since 1997 of major earthquakes **is a sign!** Earthquakes also mirror aspects of Christ's return such as **unpredictability**, “*Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh*” (Matthew 24:44), and **swiftness**, as Jesus stressed three times in the last chapter of the Bible when He warned: “*Behold, I come quickly*” (Rev. 22:7, 12, 20). **Are you ready** for His soon return?

According to Revelation 16:18-21, the world's worst quake is coming, “*There was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth...and every island fled away, and the mountains were not found!*” Obviously, millions will die in that awful quake which will occur **after Jesus returns** and takes His followers out of this world. Just three verses before this we read the words of Jesus, “*Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments!*” **Are you watching**—are you ready? “*Seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless*” (2 Peter 3:14). To read more on Christ's soon-coming and how to be ready see www.naog.ws/bilboard.htm