

## Minister's Message – October 2009

### Earthquakes Everywhere

Within just 24 hours earthquakes have rocked three regions across the world. Buildings have collapsed with the shaking, or from massive landslides. Giant waves or tsunamis have roared into coastal areas bringing destruction and death. Help is being rushed to these areas. Those suffering trauma and grief are being comforted. But will the fear go away? When will be the next time an earthquake strikes?

Scientists have been asked if these earthquakes are somehow related. What is going on in the earth beneath? When will it happen again? There have always been earthquakes but are they getting worse? The Creator of this world says that earthquakes will continue. *There will be earthquakes in various places – these are the beginning of sorrows* (Matthew 24:7).

Jesus spoke of these things in the context of the end of the world and his own second coming. There will be great suffering prior to his coming not only from earthquakes but from wars and from famines. As such disasters strike this world what is the focus of the nations and the leaders of the nations? What is your focus? What effect do these disasters have on your thinking, thinking about your life and your death?

When the tower in Siloam fell on 18 people and killed them some thought the victims were being punished for their sins. Many do not like to think about sin today; especially their own sin – or maybe it is just that they do not want to talk about sin. If they were in the path of a tsunami they might think about their sin. What do you think about these recent disasters?

Jesus said in relation to those asking about the disaster in Siloam – *unless you repent you likewise will perish* (Luke 13:5). When you hear about such disasters by all means rush to help those who need help, but also stop to think about your own situation. If you had been under the tower of Siloam where would you be now? Is your life any more secure than those who perished in the earthquakes – or the famine, or the war, or the bus crash, or the heart attack?

Do not brush these things off as bad luck or coincidence, or as something scientists and politicians will soon be able to stop. They will continue says Jesus. They will continue until the end. The question is whether you will continue in your sin and one day perish, or whether you will repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Believing in Jesus will not save you from the earthquake but it will save you when Jesus comes again in judgment upon this world. Remember that after death comes the judgment. Noah believed God and built the boat in which he and his family were saved. Will you believe God's word which says *believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved, you and your household* (Acts 16:31).

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