

# AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE

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A SHAKING IS  
UNAVOIDABLE WHEN  
GOD SHOWS UP



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Paul and Silas simply did what they knew was best when they cast the demon out of a girl in Philippi. They lived their life in a manner that even the demons would proclaim who they served as for days, this possessed girl followed them and proclaimed that they served the true, living God. Because of their action, they were hated by the world that sought personal gain and profit. And as so many of us are familiar, they were imprisoned for their actions.

*20 And when they had brought them to the magistrates, they said, "These men are Jews, and they are disturbing our city. 21 They advocate customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to accept or practice." 22 The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. 23 And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely. 24 Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. 25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, 26 and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened.*

Acts 16:20-26

## Opposition to Our Faith

Paul and Silas were imprisoned for their actions, taken captive for their good deeds and the work of the Lord. They were beaten, humiliated to no end, left only after the guards tired of dealing such abuse.

- There will come opposition in our faith; beaten down by the enemy of the world, we will suffer at the hands of our accusers for what we preach and how we live our lives.
- We will be beaten, shackled and imprisoned so as to diminish our ability to serve and praise God as best as we can.
- We will be attacked daily for if we are strong in Christ then surely the Devil will want nothing more than to destroy us, our family and our livelihood, but alas, there is hope that comes in our praise.



In the midst of that praise, their world of stone and iron began to shake.

Now stick with me because I have another theory that you might find interesting.

*18 Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the Lord had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly.*

Exodus 19:18

*13 Then Jonathan climbed up on his hands and feet, and his armor-bearer after him. And they fell before Jonathan, and his armor-bearer killed them after him. 14 And that first strike, which Jonathan and his armor-bearer made, killed about twenty men within as it were half a furrow's length in an acre[c] of land. 15 And there was trembling in the host, in the field, and among all the people: the garrison, and the spoilers, they also trembled, and the earth quaked: so it was a very great trembling.*

I Samuel 14:15

*11 And he said, "Go out and stand on the mount before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. 12 And after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper.*

I Kings 19:11-12

*51 And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. 52 The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, 53 and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. 54 When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son[a] of God!"*

Matthew 27:51-54



*2 And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.*

Matthew 28:2

*31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.*

Acts 4:31

## When the Shaking Occurs

I don't know about you, but it sounds to me like the appearance of the Spirit of God has a very real impact on the world. It seems to me like when a incredible shaking occurs, it ain't just something bad happening; it isn't the devil doing his best to mess you up.

It seems to me tonight, that the world is doing all it can to make its mark before the presence of God begins to sweep in. If you don't think spiritual things directly impact the physical world around you, you got another thing coming.

In so many places in scripture, an earthquake served as a precursor to the miraculous power of God. When God reaches down from outside of time to interact with the world around you, you know some things are going to begin to shake and tremble and turn upside down at the power of the living God.

For Paul and Silas, the doors were flung open, the shackles, shaken off of their hands and feet, by all accounts these were free men. But the miracles doesn't stop there, no, because scripture tells us that the guard awoke, and he was so afraid he thought his only option was to kill himself. But the Bible tells us that the children of God stopped the man and witnessed to him and straightaway they went to his household where his whole family was saved.

