

BELIEVERS NEWS

NOVEMBER, 1998
EARTHQUAKES

“Right here is probably where judgment will strike. That’s right. Let’s get ready! This will probably be the first place it will hit, right in here. Oh Church, hold to God’s unchanging hand!”

THE ANGEL OF THE LORD
Los Angeles, California May 2, 1951

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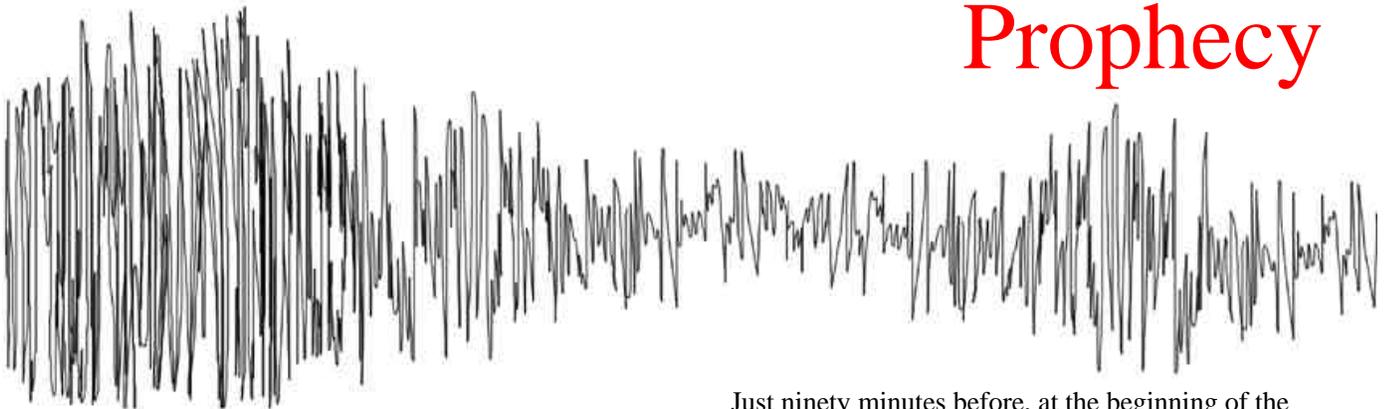
The date was April 29, 1965. An estimated five hundred people had crowded into the second-floor banquet room of the Biltmore Hotel in downtown Los Angeles – nearly twice the number the space was designed to accommodate. Another hundred or so jammed the hallway near the entrance, straining to hear the evening’s speaker. Many more milled about downstairs, unable to find even standing room within hearing distance. It was as though the sponsors of the meeting – the Full Gospel Business Men’s Fellowship International – had not taken into consideration the fact that local chapter members would not be the only convention attendees. A great many people had traveled hundreds (or even thousands) of miles to hear a man whom they knew to be a prophet of God. Now they willingly took turns standing around the perimeter of the room, occasionally (for a few moments of ease

On the platform, the preaching was drawing to a close. Brother Branham’s voice was intense; his delivery was measured and distinct.

“Church member, if your church isn’t like that – to measure up to God’s qualification of His Word – then get out of it, and get into Christ. That is a solemn warning.

We don’t know what time, and you don’t know what time, that this city, one day, is going to be laying out here in the bottom of this ocean.”

The Earthquake Prophecy

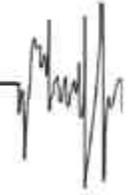


during the lengthy service) trading places with someone gracious enough to share their seat. They were not about to allow the fact that the accommodations were inadequate and their physical conditions strained to divert their attention from the powerful message that was being delivered.

And at the moment, that message was, quite literally, earth shattering.

Just ninety minutes before, at the beginning of the service, he had reminded the people that the “monster” that had flipped himself over in Alaska a short time ago – a reference to the Good Friday quake of 1964 – had thrown his tail up once again in the state of Washington that very morning. This time it had been a mere tremor in comparison, but he knew that the subject of earthquakes was on the people’s minds. The Alaskan quake had been among the Earth’s most powerful, surpassing magnitude 9 on the moment-magnitude scale¹ and causing the entire globe to ring like a bell for weeks on end.²

Living On The Edge



Since then, people who lived along the western seaboard had been asking him, “Will it happen here?”

And for months he had been telling them, “I don’t know, and until I do know, I’m not going to presume. The Lord has got to tell me first, and then I’ll tell you.”

After the whirlwind Visitation at Sunset Mountain the year before, during which the Lord had directed him to speak the words “Judgement Striking West Coast,” he had indicated that he personally felt the Alaskan quake was not to be the only physical event that was set into motion that day. Now, it seemed as though the audience, collectively, held its breath, as the prophet continued to speak:

“‘Oh Capernaum,’ said Jesus, ‘thou who’s exalted into Heaven will be brought down into hell: for if the mighty works. . . had been done in Sodom and Gomorrah, it would have been standing until this day.’ And Sodom and Gomorrah lays at the bottom of the Dead Sea; and Capernaum is in the bottom of the sea.”

He swayed slightly, and reached out to grasp the sides of the podium so firmly that his whitened knuckles were visible from several yards away.

“Thou city, who claims to be the city of the Angels: who has exalted yourself into Heaven, and sent all the dirty, filthy things of fashions and things, until even the foreign countries come here to pick up our filth and send it away; with your fine churches, and steeples, and so forth, the way you do. Remember, one day you will be laying in the bottom of this sea! You’ve a great honeycomb under you right now. The wrath of God is belching right beneath you! How much longer He will hold this sandbar hanging over that, when that ocean out yonder, a mile deep, will slide in there plumb back to the Salton Sea.

He paused. “It will be worse than the last day of Pompeii!

“Repent, Los Angeles! Repent the rest of you, and turn to God! The hour of His wrath is upon the Earth. Flee while there is time to flee, and come into Christ.”

Those who knew him could recognize from his gestures that he was beginning to drift away from himself in the Spirit, and was struggling to stay conscious and aware of his surroundings. His body was visibly trembling. Then he began to pray, and to those in the audience it felt as though the powerful anointing that was on the prophet began to radiate out from the platform and settle over the assembly. Some were later to describe it as a “drenching of the anointing,” more powerful than they had ever felt before. People began to moan, then to scream; men and women literally fell out of their seats and onto the floor, prostrate in repentance. There could no longer be any questions about whether or not judgment would strike the West Coast, for the questions had been answered. From that moment they knew: It’s not just going to shake. It’s going to sink.

When it comes to earthquakes, geologists can now unanimously agree that it would be hard to imagine a piece of real estate on the North American continent that is less suitable for human habitation than the land between the notorious San Andreas fault and the coastline of Southern California.

Granted, the topography is spectacular, but tectonics makes it deadly. The mega-strain that is being created by the collision of two great segments of the Earth – the Pacific Plate and the North American Plate – has now reached critical levels. Geologists know that soon there will be a sudden ‘unlocking’ of these land masses that will unleash an earthquake of enormous magnitude, capable of being the most powerful our planet has ever known.

This information has not been kept secret. Three decades of research has produced irrefutable data to prove that the entire area is honeycombed with fractures (faults) in the earth’s crust. But with a lemming-like propensity, people continue to live, work, and build – homes, schools, hospitals, bridges and skyscrapers – on or near these ticking time bombs. In Hollywood, the city has covered over virtually every inch of a major fault by literally straddling the two plates. Reservoirs have been constructed in depressions formed by the past movements of faults. The Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant in central California is located less than three miles from the offshore Hosgri fault.

It is a paradox.

A large percentage of what geologists know today concerning the structure and behavior of Earth’s interior was simply unheard-of in 1965 when the destruction of Los Angeles was prophetically declared. Years of advanced scientific studies have now changed our understanding of this complex sphere upon which we live. Those same scientific studies have also provided us with details that substantiate the absolute, word-perfect accuracy of the judgment prophecy. In addition, they have supplied physical evidence to show us that a complete fulfillment cannot be far away.

The prophetic words have been familiar to us for thirty-three years, but we’d like for you to look closely at it once more, and this time we would like to focus your attention on three particular passages.

“...a great honeycomb”

Thirty-three years ago, a new geological discovery was about to revolutionize the entire field of Earth sciences. It was called “plate tectonics,” and it shed new light on two of the most awesome and dangerous natural phenomenon on the planet: earthquakes and volcanoes.

In 1965, when Brother Branham stood behind the podium and condemned the city of Los Angeles, very little was known about the way our planet really works. Geologists were just beginning to explore deep into Earth’s unseen anatomy. They were barely on their way to learning what causes the enormous earthquakes that rip open the land and level cities, and to understanding why three-fourths of the Earth’s active volcanoes are found in the area that borders the Pacific Ocean – an area known as the Ring of Fire.³

By the early 1970s, using a wide range of new technologies, science was able to confirm that the Earth’s outer shell is broken into 20 irregularly shaped, floating landmasses called ‘plates,’ each about 60 miles thick. The continents are embedded in these plates, which float upon a churning layer of molten rock below – much like icebergs on the move. Since the Earth was formed, they have been slowly grinding past each other in fits and starts (at the rate of about two inches a year, or roughly the same speed at which fingernails grow), colliding, fracturing, grating, and sometimes rupturing as they drift. It is this movement between the plates that wrinkle the Earth’s crust into soaring mountains and broad valleys. It also fires up volcanoes and generates earthquakes.

Frequently the rough edges of the plates become locked, which causes the pressure to slowly build. This stress can be released gradually by scores of small to medium earthquakes (under 8 on the moment-magnitude scale³), are unleashed in a single, disastrous jolt. The great fractures, or faults, that define the earth’s crust are merely the surface manifestations of the converging tectonic plates.

In California, it is the sideways, sliding motion between two of these large plates as they move in opposite directions (called a strike-slip fault) that triggers thousands of quakes and aftershocks each year. The well-known San Andreas – which runs through the length of the Golden State like a puckered surgical scar, slicing a 750-mile piece of the heavily-populated coast from the North American landmass – is the largest and most dangerous fault in the nation.

The San Andreas has been the focus of attention for many years, and seismologists are constantly uncovering evidence to prove that it is far more complex than its surface features indicate, especially in the area around Los Angeles. Here, the southern

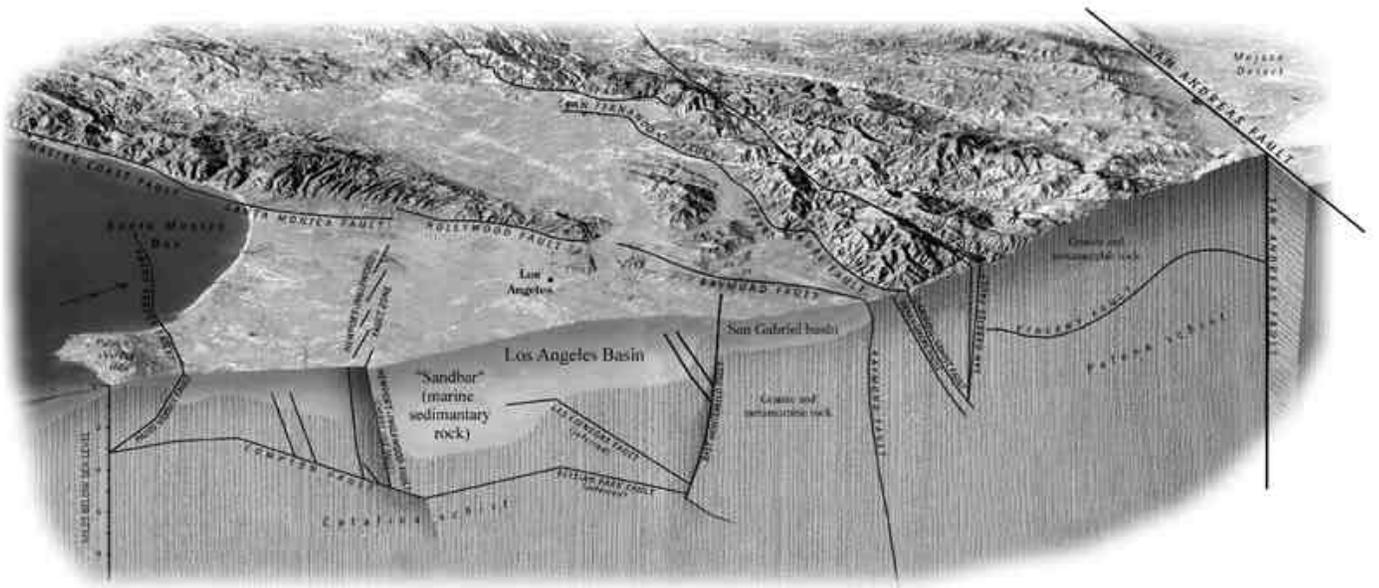
section of the fault takes a westward detour for a distance of about 100 miles, as it skirts the edge of the City of Angels. It is a detour that causes the Pacific and North American plates to collide into one another with enough force to contort and squeeze the plate edges, thus building the scenic mountain ranges of the area higher and higher. At the same time, such immense stress against the plates has also birthed a complex network of smaller faults, each one capable of creating its own devastation. In August of 1992, soon after a 7.5 magnitude quake had rocked the city of Landers (just east of Palm Springs), Time Magazine gave this description: “The battle of the plates has created numerous smaller fault lines along the San Andreas, giving the region the look of a smashed windshield.”⁴

There are seven known major fault systems in the metropolitan area of Los Angeles alone, not including the San Andreas, which have reached the surface and can be recognized visibly. However, there is another type of fault that poses a particular danger to the city that was virtually ignored by seismologists until the 1980s. That is the blind thrust fault, which is a fault that does not rupture the ground’s surface but creates a more subtle distortion of the land that geologists call a ‘scarp.’ Thrust faults are also different in that they are tilted so much that their position beneath the surface is horizontal, rather than vertical,⁵ creating a dimensional honeycomb of the underlying fault system. One of the more than 50 such newly-recognized blind thrust faults – the Elysian Park zone – runs directly under the skyscrapers and crisscrosses the freeways of downtown Los Angeles.⁶

Remember, when the “**great honeycomb**” beneath the city of Los Angeles was prophetically revealed in 1965, only the Creator knew of its existence!

Now, intense efforts are underway by men representing all fields of Earth Sciences to map the web of this recently exposed seismic monstrosity. And what they are discovering beneath the city’s veneer of asphalt and concrete has them justifiably frightened. Professor Kerry Seih of the Seismological Laboratory at Caltec, points out, “We used to think the main danger to LA was a ‘big one’ originating on the San Andreas Fault, which runs at least 30 miles from downtown. But the San Andreas is no longer the only source for a big one. We now have the enemy right beneath the city as well as on its margins.”⁷

Actually, what we already know is that that’s not even the half of it.



*Map shows cross section of western half of the basin
 Picture this: if you removed the sandbar, the low hills on the Hollywood fault would nearly equal the height of the Himalayas, the tallest mountain range in the world!*

“...this sandbar hanging over that”

There are two major factors that determine the effects of an earthquake at a given site: 1) the distance of the site from the epicenter, and 2) the rock or soil density in the area. In both categories, the Los Angeles area of Southern California, west of the San Gabriel Mountains, has all the components needed to spawn a worse-case-scenario, highly destructive earthquake event.

As each new blind thrust fault is found, it raises another red flag to geologists. “There are unknown, obscure faults everywhere beneath LA,” they reported in 1995, shortly after the Northridge quake that took 33 lives and did \$20 billion worth of property damage. “We know that just one of them can create a magnitude 6.7 quake. What if two or more break together?”⁸

The magnitude of an earthquake depends on the length of the rupture on the fault. For instance, in the magnitude 7.7 San Francisco earthquake of 1906 (the largest ever to hit the state), a 270-mile long segment of the Pacific Plate jumped 21 feet in a few seconds. Geologists now know that a rupture along just one part of one fault can trigger earthquakes along neighboring segments as well, by literally jumping from fault to fault. That means that if you are on one of the affected fault lines, you could be miles from the epicenter, yet still be on top of the quake.⁹ Such a chain reaction along the known fault structure beneath the metropolis of Los Angeles would create an earthquake of unimaginable magnitude.

But even if the network of faults beneath Los Angeles does not sufficiently doom the city, then the composition of the soil that creates the honeycomb’s framework will most certainly do the job.

The San Gabriel Mountains – an enormous, elongated block of dense rock that has been pushed out of the Earth by the pressure of the converging plates – form the backdrop for an area that is known as the Los Angeles Basin. Once covered by the sea, eons of alluvium (sand and gravel washed from the nearby mountains) and ocean sediment have created a landfill that covers 4,113 square miles on the surface, and in some areas is as deep as 25,000 feet, more than four and a half miles! It is precisely what Brother Branham exposed it to be in 1965 – a vast sandbar.

The Hollywood Hills (site of the conspicuous HOLLYWOOD sign) rise only a few hundred feet above the famous Hollywood Boulevard. But earthquake geologist Jim Dolan gives us this description of the landmark: “If you removed those sediments and stood at the bottom of the basin, it would be like looking up at the Himalayas.”¹⁰

During an earthquake, the granite and schist bowl-shaped floor of this sandbar acts like an amplifier for seismic waves, causing them to crisscross and magnify within the enclosed space. A double or triple dose of seismic energy is then created, which in turn triggers another earthquake phenomenon called liquefaction – a geological term used when solid soil turns to something like quicksand. Professor Seih gives this description of the process: “If wet sand lies only a few feet below the

surface, when the terrain is subjected to severe shaking the hydrostatic pressure (water pressure) in the sandy layer rises to the point that the sand grains separate from each other and the whole layer turns into a slurrylike quicksand – a process appropriately referred to as liquefaction. The drop in the land that inevitably occurs is not a gradual process, but a sudden fall.”¹¹

Liquefaction is not a theory; it is a fact. Effects identical to those just described have been noted in earthquakes of the past that occurred in thick sedimentary basins. Geologists believe these following examples could be analogous to a future, high-magnitude quake in the Los Angeles Basin:

*Mexico City – One tragic example of the effect of local soil conditions during a seismic event was the Mexico City earthquake of September 19, 1985. The 8.1 quake, whose source was 200 miles away in the Pacific Ocean, killed more than 9,000 people. Nearly all of the deaths occurred in the older part of the city, an area that was built on a thick deposit of soft, high-water-content sediments. The resonant vibrations affected the city as though it were a bowl of jelly, increasing the oscillations of buildings until they finally collapsed.¹²

*Alaska – The most recent monster tremor (surpassing magnitude 9) to strike the Earth was on Good Friday, March 27, 1964. It is an earthquake with which most of us are familiar. Four minutes of intense shaking liquefied the underlying alluvium, which caused massive landslides as the surface broke up and slid towards the ocean. Most of the 115 victims were claimed by tsunamis (tidal waves). The convulsions emanating from this fault had such power that they caused the ground to bulge up to two inches as they raced unnoticed through Chicago, Boston, and other parts of the United States. Even after crossing the globe, the vibrations still had enough punch to upset water levels in South African wells.¹³

We find that there was another earthquake that struck this – not the other nations, this nation – and shook the whole world. Jesus officially turned out. The Identified Christ of All Ages, June 17, 1964

*Sodom and Gomorrah – This is another event with which most of us are familiar, even though we may never have associated it with an earthquake. However, some scientists are now uncovering evidence to show that a large earthquake did strike the plains at the southern end of the Dead Sea at about 4000 BC (within the time frame for the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah). The sedimentary basin in which the cities of the plain were located is remarkably similar to the Los Angeles basin, and even a small amount of seismic activity on such an

unstable surface would be capable of creating the destruction spoken of in Genesis 19:25 : “And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground.” Pockets of gas, oil, and asphalt can be found under the rock and soil beds in that area, and a rupture in the local fault system certainly could have produced clouds of black smoke, which would rain down deadly sulfur and hydrogen sulfide,. The burning, sulfur-dioxide fallout would have killed all people, animals, and vegetation in the area. In their book, *The Destruction of Sodom, Gomorrah & Jericho*, scientists David Neev and K.O. Emery, after thirty years of research are now willing to concede that, “...the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah as a supernatural event should not be dismissed as an exaggerated fictitious story...” !!¹⁴

Keeping in mind what you have just read concerning the geological factors of chain reaction and liquefaction, carefully read the following quotation, spoken by Brother Branham on July 11, 1965:

“...if that big churning, that earth swallowing in like that, with hundreds of square miles – hundreds and hundreds of square miles – sinking into the earth, it will throw a tidal wave plum to Arizona. Sure it would.”

“...the last day of Pompeii”

On August 24th of the year 79AD, a volcano, located on the western coast of Italy, near the present-day city of Naples, erupted explosively. Mount Vesuvius disgorged burning gases and ash that swallowed the nearby city of Pompeii, suffocating its victims and covering their bodies in an ash flow that in places was up to 65 feet deep.

The Pompeii disaster is probably the most widely known volcanic eruption in the world. But somehow it seems both strange and ominous to hear it used to describe the impact of an impending earthquake on the city of Los Angeles. When Brother Branham spoke those words in 1965, it had been less than five years since a monstrous earthquake in Chile had ruptured along a 600-mile-long segment of coastal fault, killing more than 5,000 people and sending tsunamis across the Pacific to drown hundreds more in Hawaii and Japan. At a magnitude of 9.5, it was (and still is) the most powerful earthquake ever recorded – and, one would think, a good example to use when speaking of the coming devastation. Or perhaps the Alaskan event of 1964, which was the second most severe earthquake, could also have served as an appropriate example. But, the name he spoke was “Pompeii.” So we must ask ourselves, what possible similarities could there be between what did happen at Pompeii and what will happen when the earthquake strikes in Los Angeles?

“There’s no escaping geology on the West Coast of the United States,” declared the National Geographic in April of 1995,¹⁵ thus implying that ‘living on the edge’ is a term that may not apply to Californians alone. The 750-mile-long San Andreas which rises from the earth on the edge of the Salton Sea at California’s southern tip, disappears again beneath the waters of the Pacific at a point just off the coast of northern California that is called the Mendocino Triple Junction. It is there that the Pacific Plate and the North American Plate are joined by a third, much smaller, tectonic body, the Gorda. A few miles further north, the Gorda Plate meets the Juan de Fuca Plate, which extends into the Canadian waters off the coast of Vancouver.

Slowly but surely, the Juan de Fuca and the Gorda are disappearing. As they collide with the North American Plate, they plunge downward, under the edge of the larger plate and into the interior of the Earth. The process is called subduction, and the fault along the tectonic plates where it is happening is called a subduction zone. Until recently, scientists thought this particular subduction zone, the Cascadia, was inactive. But now researchers are finding evidence that proves the contrary.

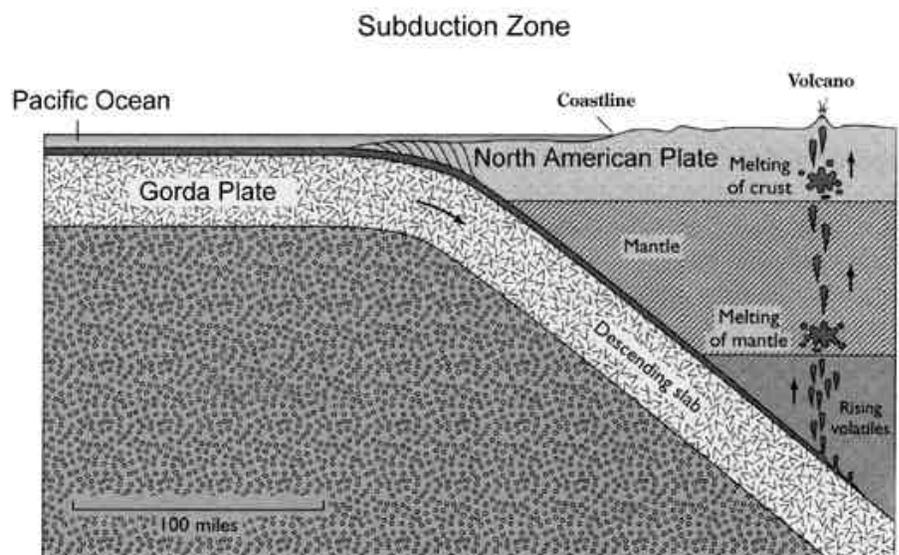
In the Pacific Northwest, the angle of descent of the ocean slab beneath the continent is fairly gradual, so that by the time it is about 80 miles below the surface, it has traveled about 150 to 200 miles inland from the coastline. At this depth, the rock has heated to over 1,000 degrees Celsius, and it begins to release steam and other volatile compounds that rise into the crust of the Earth, causing parts of the mantle and crust to melt. The magma is then stored for a time in magma chambers – huge reservoirs – that are formed at about the same distance from the coast as the subducting plate has traveled. (That is why the Cascadian volcanoes are located so far inland.)¹⁶ And on the surface of the Earth, above the magma chambers, is a line of active volcanoes.

Interestingly, all of the large volcanoes of Cascadia, including Lassen, Shasta, Hood, Adams, Rainier, Baker, and of course, Saint Helens, are a type of volcano called stratovolcanoes, which means “layered volcanoes.” Steep and rugged, they are famous for spectacular vertical eruptions which carry pumice, ash, and hot gases miles into the stratosphere (sometimes to altitudes of 100,000 feet or more). The world’s best know volcano, the previously mentioned Mount Vesuvius, is also a stratovolcano.

As the magma continues to accumulate in the depositories that are

miles from the fault line in the floor of the ocean, the rocks of the subducting plates can become strained as they bend and plunge downward. When the stress reaches a breaking point, a segment of the fault will rupture, sending seismic waves through the reservoirs beneath the volcanoes. In a way similar to the violent shaking of a big can of soda, the ‘belching’ of super-heated steam and gas disturbs the unstable magma, and often a volcanic eruption is the result. Even a small quake can trigger scores of sympathetic vibrations in volcanic and geothermal regions, causing magma to rise nearer and nearer to the surface. Volcanologists believe that a major eruption, such as one that could be triggered by a large tectonic earthquake, would be capable of spreading ash over an area of about 500,000 square miles – an area that could include eight states and three Canadian provinces. There is geological evidence that it has already happened at least once in the past.¹⁷

Most of the principal volcanoes of the Cascade Range are capable of erupting with little notice. Earth Scientists for the US Geological Survey are sounding the alarm: “From the Sierra to Seattle, volcanoes long thought to be dormant are showing signs of life. Since 1978, California’s Long Valley caldera [an ancient collapsed volcano east of San Francisco], which once dropped ash on the East Coast, and Mount Shasta have both seen swarms of earthquakes. [The caldera, now bulges atop a magma chamber estimated at 200 cubic miles. Over 2,300 quakes per week rock the area, some as great as 4.9, and they show no signs of abating]. And, of course, in 1980 Mount St. Helens proved categorically that the Cascade volcanoes are indeed active. Mount St. Helens had been silent for 123 years... it blew only seven days after we noted its first earthquake. Any of these Cascade volcanoes could do the same.”¹⁸



The archeological site of Capernaum is all that is left of a once extremely prosperous coastal city of Jesus' day. In Matthew 9:1 Capernaum is even termed "his own city," and it was from there that He called His first disciples, and lodged in Peter's house. But in spite of the miracles, the inhabitants were not responsive to His warnings to repent, and Jesus finally denounced Capernaum along with the neighboring cities of Chorazin and Bethsaida, prophesying that they would all come to ruin (Matthew 11:23, Luke 10:13-15) The words of Jesus were fulfilled when the city was completely destroyed during the Jewish-Roman War of 67-70AD, around 39 years after it was condemned. Portions of the once splendid cultural center now lie under the nearby Sea of Galilee. Small areas of the city were rebuilt as a Christian community, with a church on the site of Peter's house, but again it was destroyed in the third century by an earthquake, along with nearby Bethsaida and Chorazin. Today, the ruins that remain date from the third and fourth centuries.

Similarly, one day as Jesus and His disciples were leaving the temple in Jerusalem, they began to speak to Him of the beauty of the buildings, and of the exceptional stonework and architecture. And Jesus prophesied to them, saying, "See ye not all these things? Verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down." He also told them what to expect just before the time of destruction, and urged them to take heed: "Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:" Matthew 24: 1-15

Thirty-six years later, the Roman general, Titus, began his siege on the city of Jerusalem that was to last for three years. The horrors endured by those who were trapped within the city are beyond description, as they paid the price for rejecting the Word. But, as Brother Branham confirmed, "There wasn't one Christian caught in there, for they saw the sign and moved." 19

A vindicated prophet is always a sign that judgment is at hand. But just as it was in the days of Jesus, time is often quiet between events. The interval between the declaration and the fulfillment is often just long enough for humans to forget.

But judgment is coming to the West Coast of America, and it appears that it will be a conjunction of three types of geological disasters – earthquake, tsunami, and volcanic eruption. What has been declared will come to pass; there is no going back.

"We've had a Lincoln and a Washington. Look what it is today! Look where we're going now. Where's the next thing? We're at the end time, and it's a sign in the natural, just exactly. It gets the Elect ready, and condemns to judgment the unbeliever.

"If this prophet is a true prophet, and what he says comes to pass," the Bible said in Numbers 12:6, "hear his warning."

It's vindicated. It's not the man. A prophet is a man, but the Voice from the supernatural sign is a scriptural Voice. It's vindicated. Then it is a warning." THE VOICE OF THE SIGN, March 21, 1964.

1. Most seismologists have abandoned the familiar Richter scale for a more precise moment-magnitude scale. The Richter measures seismic waves to determine the energy of an earthquake. The moment-magnitude is calculated by measuring the length of the fault's ruptured surface and the distance the earth moves during a quake.
2. De Blij, Harm. *Nature On The Rampage*. Smithsonian Books, 1994. page 151.
3. After the Alaskan earthquake, there was intense interest in mapping and understanding the high degree of volcanic and earthquake activity present on the Pacific Rim. We wonder if this could be the scientific report that Brother Branham refers to in *Ashamed of Him (65-0711)* and *Anointed Ones At The End Time (65-0725m)*?
4. Madeline Nash. "News From The Underground." *Time Magazine*, August 24, 1992. page 55.
5. Sieh, Kerry and LeVay, Simon. *The Earth In Turmoil: Earthquakes, Volcanoes, and Their Impact On Humankind*. New York: W.H. Freeman and Company, 1998. page 123.
6. Gore, Rick. "Living With California's Faults." *National Geographic*, Vol. 187, No. 4, April 1995. page 22.
7. *Ibid.* page 11.
8. *Ibid.* page 11.
9. *Ibid.* page 13.
10. *Ibid.* page 22.
11. *The Earth In Turmoil*, page 23.
12. Neev, David and Emery, K.O. *The Destruction of Sodom, Gomorrah, and Jericho: Geological, Climatological, and Archaeological Background*. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1995. page 37.
13. *Nature on the Rampage*, page 151.
14. *The Destruction of Sodom, Gomorrah, and Jericho*, page 140.
15. National Geographic Society, Cartographic Division, "Living on the Edge," April 1995.
16. *The Earth In Turmoil*, pages 32-33.
17. *Ibid.* page 35.
18. Gore, Rick. "Our Restless Planet Earth." *National Geographic*, Vol. 168, No.2, August, 1985, page 179.
19. William Branham, "The Uniting Time and Sign," 63-0818.

Disaster in Central America

As this newsletter goes to press, the Central American countries of Nicaragua and Honduras are reeling from the effects of Hurricane Mitch. Today we have finally been able to contact a sister who lives in Managua, the capital of Nicaragua, but so far all our attempts to call Honduras have been unsuccessful.

Sister Connie reports that the rain that has pounded the area for 12 days has left 70% of her country underwater. There are no road connections in any direction, because the approaches to all bridges have washed away. She has not been able to establish any communication with the believers who live outside Managua, and can only wait to hear from family and friends. "This is worse than the earthquake in 1972, and I am certain that the worse is yet to come," she told us. "All the crops have been destroyed, and I don't know how the people will obtain food. Most of the homes in the outlying areas are so poorly constructed that I am sure they have not survived. Where will the people find shelter?"

She also reported that the local Nicaraguan news stations are saying that it is believed that mudslides have killed thousands, but the weather has not permitted the search teams to begin their work. Honduras is in an even worse condition, with 90% of the land flooded.

We personally know of more than 2,000 believers who live in these two neighboring countries – 40 churches in Honduras, and 50 in Nicaragua.

Please pray for these suffering brothers and sisters in Christ. As soon as we are able to contact the pastors (or hear through others) to know of the specific needs, we will begin a relief effort on their behalf.

Brother & Sister George Smith

Prayer Requests

- Sister Clever, of Ukiah, Oregon, requests prayer for her family, for battles they are going through.
- Deborah Myers Patterson, from Bartlett, Tennessee, requests prayer her brother Phillip, who is going through difficult medical testing, for problems with his nervous system.
- Brother and Sister Ferguson, from Greenwich, New York, request prayer for the salvation of their five children, and special deliverance for their oldest son.
- Sister Velva Bentley, of Bethel, Ohio, has a very serious medical condition, for which she requests the prayers of the saints.
- Sister Belle Payne, from, DeKalb, Texas, has an urgent request. Her 15-year-old niece has been missing for three months, and her mother is very desperate.
- Sister Irene Reuschel desires prayer for healing in her leg.
- Sister Carolyn Faulkner, from Middletown, Ohio asks that we pray for her husband, who is suffering from diabetes with serious complications, and also for her two sons who have genetic health problems.
- Sister Doris Woody, of Mineral Bluff, Georgia, requests prayer for the salvation and healing of her granddaughter, who is recovering from a car accident.
- Brother Joseph Reising, from Mt Morris, Illinois, asks that we remember Brother J W Jasper, who has been ill, and Sister Janet Jasper, who has bone cancer, in prayer.
- Sister Lurline Barnhill requests prayer for her daughter, Glynis, who is recovering from cancer surgery.
- Brother Louis and Sister Rose Jean, from Miramar, Florida, are expecting triplets this month, and are requesting prayer for their family.
- Sister Joyce Wilson, from West Jordan, Utah, requests prayer for her niece, Monica Fast, for total deliverance from her battle.
- Sister Loraine Timmons, from Phoenix, Arizona, requests prayer for her husband to be saved.
- Brother James Cotham, of Only, Tennessee, asks that we pray for the continuing work that is being done in the prison there. Also pray for his brother to be delivered from drugs.

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