**Earthquakes**

I

f there were ever a doubt, on February 28, 2001, Puget Sounders (and out-of-staters trapped in the Needle) were jolted into knowing that ……we don’t live in a no-fault zone!

***What Were You Thinkin’***

***When We Were Shakin’?***

People reacted to our 6.8 temblor in various ways. Let’s run around the room and get **one word** from each of you that best describes your thoughts a week ago when you realized this was an e-quake.

On radio-TV did you notice how many said they *prayed* through the quake, and said , as Seattle’s School Super did, “Thank God, our children weren’t hurt!” (So much for banning prayer in schools!)

During those 40 “forever” seconds of rock’n’roll,’ there were few atheists under desks. For a fleeting moment, calling on God was no longer the sign of a religious wacko. A half hour later “God” talk was replaced by “Mother Nature.” God was “old news” again.

For 40 long seconds almost all of us would finally admit that we were totally ***out*** of control, that conditions were ***beyond*** our control. But was God ***in*** control? If so, ***why*** would He dish out such industrial-strength anguish ?

***Is God a “Quaker?”***

With more and more bizarre, global weather, starvation, refugees, religious persecution, weapons of mass destruction in the hands of third world lunatics, and other scary phenomena, is the world spinning out of control? Is any of this taking God by surprise? Or has He already let us in on His master plan for the universe?

There’s much that God’s apparently chosen to keep more hush-hush than FBI secrets answers to questions like:

• Why does He allow disease, wars, holocausts, famines and suffering?

• Why are our kids turning into schoolyard assassins?

• Why did God allow sin to enter the world?

• Why would He plan to destroy the earth He created?

• When will Jesus return to earth?

Even Jesus doesn’t know the answer to *that* one! When He was on earth, He said He didn’t know the day nor hour of His return. That was, and is, only known by His Father in heaven.

***Is God Trying To Tell Us Something?***

Hal Lindsey, a frequent Seattle visitor in the 70s, rocked the publishing world in 1970 with his first book that held the top spot of *The New York Times* best-seller list for ages, The Late Great Planet Earth. Overnight, Bible prophecy became cool.

Re these stepped-up natural phenomena, Lindsey says, “No other period in human history has ever seen so many formidable perils to the survival of the human race. … There has been no time in the history of mankind in which the stage has been so well set for this main event . The geopolitical alliances have been forged. The climatic conditions are in evidence. The spiritual status of the world is just what we would expect. Examined together, these signs lead inevitably to one conclusion: the long-awaited Messiah of the Bible is coming soon.”

Lindsey adds, “Jesus promised us that the generation that witnessed the restoration of the Jewish people to their homeland would not pass until ‘all these things’ - including His return to Earth - would be done. The Jewish people declared the rebirth of their nation in 1948. They recaptured Jerusalem in 1967. A biblical generation is somewhere between 40-100 years, depending on whether you take the example from Abraham’s day or from the discipline of Israel in the Wilderness of Sinai. In either case, you do the arithmetic, folks. No matter how you cut it, there’s not much time left.”

Noone’s found the Old Testament prophets’ predictions to be off. *Au contraire*, they’re startlingly specific and totally accurate, as we’ve noted in our 9+-year, “Nordy’s” odyssey through the Bible.

Lindsey goes on, “Because we are so close to the final, climactic stages of world history, it is considerably easier today for the student of Bible prophecy to see with some accuracy what’s coming next. No, I am not a prophet. But I have studied the prophets. And I am certain that all of what they predict for mankind up to and including the Second Advent will occur in the next few years -- probably in your lifetime.”

***Will Mankind Survive?***

Here to guide us through his well-researched, biblically-documented primer on earthquakes past, present and future is Hal Lindsey, author of 13 books with sales of more than 36 million copies. Time has called him “the Jeremiah for this generation.” Let’s read excerpts from ch. 5 of Hal’s book, *PLANET EARTH -2000 A.D.*

Now let’s check some key passages:

Revelation 6:12-17

Isaiah 24:17-23

Matthew 24:1-14

Luke 21:5-11

***So Much for The Bad News….***

***Is There Any Good News, For God’s Sake…..***

***…..And Ours?***

You bet; we’re overdue! Let’s read some:

Colossians1:16-22

I Thessalonians 4:13-18

As we discovered here at Nordy’s on September 28, 1999:

“Revelation, the book of *endings*, completes what God began in Genesis, the book of *beginnings*. In Revelation we see the eternal consequences of both The Fall and Redemption. For those who have, in repentance and faith, accepted Christ's free, no-strings gift of forgiveness, this book is a turbo-Triple-A map. For those who choose not to follow Christ, this is a blood-curdling account of what they *must* and *will* face en route to everlasting torment.

“But the *good* news is that NOT ONE of us *HAS* to live through the agony of Revelation, God's punishment of Israel for rejecting their Messiah 2,000 years ago. Each of us has a choice. God doesn't want one soul to be destroyed. Thus, He sent His Son Jesus from heaven to earth to die on a cross to permanently erase your sins and mine.”

We began this tale of titanic tremors with Hal Lindsey. He wraps it for us as we read the first two pages of his ch. 18.

His Deal

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