
Subject: Christchurch Shaking.

Dear Saints

In the past I've promised that, if I have nothing to say, I won't say it in your mailbox. I'll only mail you if I have something to say. So far, hopefully, I've kept my promise.

Hence this mail. I have something to say:

One of my usual tests for seeming words from the Holy Spirit when I receive them (apart from the obvious tests of Scripture and confirmation by the Body of Believers) is the following:

I don't mention the "word" to anyone. Then I try to forget the "word", but ask the Holy Spirit in silent prayer to remind me of it - if it has been from Him. And often the "word" never surfaces again. I actually don't know how often this occurs, because I completely forget them - I even forget that I've ever "received" them! But also, often they won't leave me. The harder I try to forget them, the more they bug me.

Recently, this happened again:

On the 22nd of February this year, a **devastating earthquake** shook New Zealand, and particularly the city of **Christchurch**. 181 people died and many buildings were severely damaged.

At that time my family and I were packing up our entire life of the past 14 years in order to move to a new house a week later - so my focus was elsewhere. I didn't have time for newspapers and hardly watched TV. I did notice the "news on the lampposts" though. But I didn't take much note of it. My life was getting boxed for the move.

After our move to the new home, I received a number of emails on this topic. Some were merely factual, and others prophetic.

In one specific prophetic article the author said something to this effect:

Isn't it significant that **the only city in the world which is called Christchurch** has now been **shaken twice**? (there had also been a less devastating quake four months earlier in November 2010). Might this be prophetic?, the author asked.

Another webpage article posted pictures of the **damage** to the St. John's Anglican Church, the Roman Catholic Christchurch Basilica and the Christchurch Cathedral. The bell towers of all these churches had toppled during the quake. The same webpage published pictures of **traumatised, anguishing** Christchurch citizens, waiting for news about missing relatives.

Reports said that authorities were trying to **save survivors**, and starting to **clean up the mess**.

But still, I didn't switch on, although I remembered these articles.

Then, on 15 June, about four months later, Christchurch was **shaken again** by "aftershocks", measuring just as strong as the ones in February. This time, **much more damage** was caused, because the previous quake in February had **weakened many structures** - which were now **brought down** by the third quake. The already traumatised inhabitants of the city were in **despair**: they did not know what to expect next. Once again, they had to start **cleaning up the mess** all over again.

I saw a picture in the newspaper of a ruined St. Josephs Roman Catholic Church, where somebody had written this message in yellow spraypaint on the street:

"Fall Danger - Keep Out".

And suddenly my spirit jumped inside of me. Out of the blue, the previous email articles raced through my mind. "Take heed, Eben", the Holy Spirit said.

Shortly after that the newspapers reported that the authorities in Christchurch had issued a statement **that some parts of the inner city of Christchurch would not be rebuilt**. In those areas, the buildings were structurally so weakened that rebuilding was not viable.

Again, my spirit jumped. "Watch this carefully, Eben," the Holy Spirit said. "This IS prophetic!" And He started to explain to me, in bits and pieces, almost every day, the prophetic significance of these events.

I resisted this, thinking it was my own mind's interpretation. And countless times I shoved the interpretation aside, trying to forget it.

But it kept on coming back. So I asked the Lord to keep on bringing it back, if He really wanted me to know this - while I would try to forget it.

And it kept on coming back, even to the point where I realized that He wouldn't stop bringing it up until I've made this known. So here I sit - typing this mail!

In the meantime, reports started to filter in about **New Zealanders leaving their country**, to go and live in Australia and elsewhere - where there seems to be less seismic activity, while still more and more "**aftershocks**" **continue to afflict** the devastated city.

Nobody knows when this would stop. Science's knowledge of tectonics, and its ability to measure their movement still fall short of making any specific, reliable predictions.

So what would all of this mean?

A quick glance through Scripture concerning the word "shaken" brings up the following verses:

1Kings 14:15 *For the LORD shall smite Israel, as a reed is **shaken** in the water; and He shall root up Israel out of this good land which He gave to their fathers, and shall scatter them beyond the river, because they have made their Asherah poles, provoking the LORD to anger.*

Ps. 18:7 *Then the earth **shook** and trembled; the foundations also of the hills moved and were **shaken**, because He was wroth.*

Acts 4:31 *And when they had prayed, the place was **shaken** where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the Word of God with boldness.*

Acts 16:26 *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 bands were loosed.*

Heb. 12:27 *And these words "yet once more" signifieth the removing of those things which can be **shaken**, such as things that are made, that those things which cannot be **shaken** may remain.*

It would seem from Scripture that God uses "shaking" as a tool of his purifying wrath, as well as His positive, intervening power.

I believe this is exactly what the Christchurch events are prophesying. God is pouring out his wrathful, purifying, intervening power onto the "Church of Christ" - Christchurch. Not only on any particular part of it, but onto the whole Body of Christ. Nobody who would call himself a follower of Messiah would escape. No institution which considers itself a vehicle of the Kingdom would be overlooked. No organisation, establishment or association which considers itself a "ministry" would find a safe place to hide.

This shaking wouldn't be a single event. It would be an ongoing process. Whatever can be shaken shall be shaken, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

The shaking will cause much damage to church **systems**. The weaker ones without the Christ-foundation and -cornerstone laid by prophets and apostles (sand) will fall immediately. Some will only be weakened by the initial tremors, only to topple after some more shudders. Only those built on the Rock, walking by faith, shall stand, although even those shall carry the scars of a great shaking.

After the initial quakes, some in ministry will manage damage control. But before the initial mess would be cleaned up, the next shaking shall occur, destroying even more infrastructure and causing an even bigger mess.

In my mind's eye I could see ministries scurrying about, trying to keep their failing systems together. I saw trauma, anguish and despair. I saw huge signs in the spirit hovering across church systems saying: "Fall Danger - Keep Out!" I heard those trusting in systems, rather than the Rock, crying: "Alas, alas! Woe, woe!" I saw the ruins of large inner sections of traditional church life that would never be rebuilt. I saw thousands of traumatized individuals and families fleeing church systems towards spiritual places they deem less shakable. In the meantime, "aftershocks" shall seem to continue unpredictably.

That's all I know now. I wish I could have ended this prophetic word on a positive, hope-giving note, but I can't. It was simply not revealed to me - and I am surely reluctant and fearful to fabricate such. I simply don't know how this is going to pan out. But by faith I'd like to proclaim that this is going to end positively. God is purifying his Church. He is intervening in power. Nothing, and nobody will stop Him from accomplishing what He has shown He is about to do. And nobody will be able to predict its time frame - when, or for how long.

May the Lord bless and keep you.
May He make His face to shine upon you and give you peace.

In Christ

Eben Swart