

The Passion of the Saint

A message delivered to
MAYER COMMUNITY CHURCH

March 13, 1999

TITLE: The Passion of the Saint

TEXT: Hebrews 12:25-29

THEME: God's awesome power!

THRUST:

INTRODUCTION:



5:12 AM, Wednesday, April 18, 1906 a foreshock occurred with sufficient force to be felt widely throughout the San Francisco Bay area. The great earthquake broke loose 20 seconds later. Violent shocks punctuated the strong shaking which lasted from 45 to 60 seconds. The earthquake was felt from southern Oregon to south of Los Angeles and as far inland as central Nevada. The ground had broken open for more than 270 miles along a great fault — the San Andreas rift. There were 135 aftershocks.



The San Francisco earthquake is of great significance because it had one

of the greatest magnitudes ever recorded ~8.25m

But of even greater significance was the *Great fire!*

“San Francisco was wrecked by a Great Earthquake and then destroyed by the ... Great Fire that burned for four days. Hundreds, perhaps thousands of trapped persons died when South-of-Market tenements collapsed as the ground liquefied beneath them. Most of those buildings immediately caught fire, and trapped victims could not be rescued.”

Deaths: >3000 Injuries: ~225,000 Damage: 400m

—San Francisco Museum account via Internet

What is not generally known is that from 1800-1900 there have been over 70 earthquakes in CA & NV
Since 1900, there have been well over 150 <5.2
cf — 1996 was 4.7m

There has been much in the past several months that has perhaps shaken us and diverted our attention from the awesome majesty of our God to more mundane affairs of our nation, or perhaps to the uncertainties of the future.

As a result of that shift in our focus we may have lost our perspective.

One of the purposes of worship is to regain our perspective!

Neither the uncertainties of the future nor the unethical conduct in our governing bodies has shaken the foundation of our faith.

We may be shaken but our foundation remains as strong as ever, that is, if our foundation is the Word of God!

What happens when we shake something ...
don't the contents shift? Resettle in different positions?
I always know when Carrol is baking a cake.
I know because I hear this infernal banging sound
coming from the kitchen.
What she is doing is banging the cake pan
filled with batter against the counter top.
The purpose, I found out, is to remove air bubbles
so that the cake will have a finer texture.
The Holy Spirit spoke of a shaking in Hebrews 12:25-29

Hebrews 12:25-29

1. To *Whom* has God spoken?
2. *When* has God spoken?
3. *What* has God spoken?

I. To *Whom* has God Spoken? v.25

You, in fact, everyone....

God has given to everyone
a measure of faith —Romans 12:3

Faith is:

Hearing a word *from* God and
Heeding the will *of* God
not with the head
but from the heart.

II. *When* has God spoken?

- In an audible voice:
 - Ex 19:18; 20:1ff
 - Mt 27:50-54
- With actions:
 - Mt 28:1, 2
 - Acts 16:26

III. *What* has God spoken? v.

- In an audible voice:
 - Ex 19:18; 20:1ff
 - “Ten Commandments”
 - Mt 27:50-54
 - “It is finished (Jn 19:30) Father, into your hands I commend my spirit (Lk 23:46).”
 - Mt 28:1, 2

“Resurrection!”

· Acts 16:26

God answered the prayers and praise
of Paul and Silas with a great shaking,
that resulted in their freedom
and the salvation of their jailer!

This passage in Hebrews is God speaking again,
with a warning not to turn a deaf ear to His voice
because when He speaks for the final time
not only will the *earth* shake,
but, He will also shake the heavens!

And then ... **FIRE!**

Peter says that the elements will melt with fervent heat
and the earth will be consumed ...

and what will remain will be the Kingdom of God!

I don't know how soon *that* shaking will happen.

I do know it *will* !

I don't know if the things that are happening
in our society are tremors signaling the final shaking.

I don't know if the coming Y2K crises
will be a tremor or the actual shaking.

I do know that we have a sure foundation
and are part of a kingdom that cannot be shaken.

That foundation is the Apostles and Prophets.

Eph 2:20 “built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as
the chief cornerstone.” (NIV)

One of the reasons that we have not been aware
of the vast number of earthquakes
in our neighboring states
is because the majority of them have not happened
in highly populated areas.

Earthquakes are devastating for cities.

The Apostle Peter states that *we* are living stones. 1 Pe 2:5

The Apostle John said:

Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,
made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. (NAS)

The writer of Hebrews said:

Hebrews 11:10 “For he (Abraham) was looking forward to the city with foundations whose
architect and builder is God”

Abraham had this vision of God's kingdom like a city,

“a city is an inhabited place of greater size, population, or importance than a town or village.”

All of this taken together signifies that God is building!

And, you, if you know Jesus as your Lord and Savior
are part of His plan!

God is speaking to *you* ... do not refuse Him.

Our responsibility is to *worship* Him
with reverence and awe ...
because He is a consuming fire.

First comes the earthquake,
where God puts into perspective what is lasting.

Then comes the fire
where God's people are consumed *with* Him
and all others are consumed *by* Him.

When we are in *obedience* to His voice,
we are consumed *with* Him; and,
our *sacrifices* are consumed *by* Him

Lev 9:24 Fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed the burnt offering and the fat portions on the altar. And when all the people saw it, they shouted for joy and fell facedown. (NIV)

Those in *disobedience* to His voice,
will be consumed *by* Him:

Example 1: Children of Israel shortly after Sinai

Num 11:1-2 Now the people became like those who complain of adversity in the hearing of the LORD; and when the LORD heard {it,} His anger was kindled, and the fire of the LORD burned among them and consumed {some} of the outskirts of the camp. ² The people therefore cried out to Moses, and Moses prayed to the LORD, and the fire died out. (NAS)

Example 2: Lot's wife

Gen 19:17 And it came about when they had brought them outside, that one said, "Escape for your life! Do not look behind you, and do not stay anywhere in the valley; escape to the mountains, lest you be *consumed*."

v.26 shows us Lot's wife in disobedience to the holy command and she too was *consumed* by the judgement.

Will you be one that remains? or, Will you be consumed?

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation [no fear of judgement, no fear of being consumed *by* God] for those who are *in Christ Jesus*. (NAS)

What is it that *consumes* you?

Is it your *job*?

Is it your *family*? or

Is it *God*?

What/Who is it?

Heb 12:25, 28-29 See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking. ²⁸ Therefore, ... let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service (sacrifice of worship) with reverence and awe; ²⁹ for our God is a consuming fire. (NAS)

CONCLUSION: