

The Haitian Tragedy

God and Earthquakes

Mark 13:5--8

Background & 3 Questions

- Earthquakes in Scripture
- Why Here?—in Haiti
- Why the Haitians?—the people
- Why now?—the timing

Earthquakes in Scripture

- Elijah's struggle—1 Kings 19:11
- Uzziah's reign—Zechariah 14:5
- Jesus on the cross—Matthew 27
- Angel comes to tomb—Matthew 28
- Paul & Silas in prison—Acts 16
- 4 more in Revelation

Why Here?

- Plate tectonics
- An Aging Earth— “They will all wear out like a garment”—Hebrews 1:11
- 4 “hot spots”
 - San Andreas
 - Central/South America
 - West-east
 - Haiti/Dominican Republic

Why Haitians

- The poorest of western hemisphere
- The background of slavery
- The secret things: “The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.”

Deuteronomy 29:29

Why Now?

- Labor pains: “There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains.” Mark 13:8
- “We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.” Romans 8:22

4 Earthquakes in 7 years recorded in
Revelation:

Sixth seal—6:12—17

Incense—prayers of saints—8:3—5

Two witnesses raised—11:13+

“...a severe earthquake and a tenth of the city collapsed. 7,000 ... were killed...the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.”

Seventh bowl—16:17—21

“It is done! Then came...a severe earthquake. No earthquake like it has ever occurred since man has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake. The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. ... Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found.?”

In times of great tragedy God—

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, Who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.”

2 Corinthians 1:3---5