



# A Bigger Tsunami Coming

*Was the devastating Indian Ocean tsunami in Bible prophecy?*

by Eddie Sax

*Still image made from an amateur video, shot by a British family vacationing at Thailand's Phuket resort, of the tidal wave coming ashore Sunday, Dec. 26, 2004. The video of the tsunami, sparked by the earthquake off the coast of Indonesia's Sumatra island, was filmed from the balcony of the family's hotel on the resort's Patong Beach. (AP Photo / APTN)*

To ask the question is only natural for a catastrophe of such cataclysmic proportions. Over 220,000 people were killed in one day. The carnage either rivaled or exceeded any one-day's death toll from any war in history. To compare, the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima killed 'only' 140,000.

Instances of natural disasters, terror attacks, wars and rumors of wars always precipitate a deluge of letters and emails to us from students of Bible prophecy and from those who are just plain scared. The obvious question is asked — in this case, was December 26th's tsunami in the Bible?

It is easy to jump to conclusions. Recall Y2K. It was to be the mother of all disasters, and most didn't know how to argue against the apocalypse that was obviously coming on January 1, 2000, at 12:01 a.m. There were some who wanted to believe it. For a prophecy-oriented ministry, it was a unique moment in time to capitalize on fear in order to guide a multitude of frightened souls into salvation. However, something was wrong. In all of our studies and research, we could not find Y2K anywhere in the prophecies of the Bible.

Conclusion jumping: It was intuitively obvious to the casual observer that Revelation chapter 18 was ful-

filled on September 11th. The proofs were numerous. New York, the world's financial capital, is where "the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies (verse 3). Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning... burned with fire (v. 8). They shall see the smoke of her burning, standing afar (v. 9-10). Dust on their heads (v. 19). With violence shall that great city... be thrown down (v. 21)." Each one of these scriptures presents a staggering case for this prophecy's fulfillment. Unfortunately, each has been presented grossly out of context. A simple reading of the entire passage



Seismic activity map redrawn from the U.S. Geological Survey Earthquake Hazards Program website. Fault lines are in yellow. Note the fault line in the northern Mediterranean Sea, and its proximity to Israel. Map courtesy of NASA.

reveals that such a conclusion is not even in the ballpark. But sometimes people want to believe.

Surely you read about what the Qur'an has to say about 9/11. Witness Qur'an chapter 9, verse 11: "For it is written that a son of Arabia would awaken a fearsome Eagle. The wrath of the Eagle would be felt throughout the lands of Allah and lo, while some of the people trembled in despair still more rejoiced; for the wrath of the Eagle cleansed the lands of Allah; and there was peace." Close enough to reality for you? It would

be, except that the scripture is an outright fabrication.

Others look to the Bible Code to interpret all signs and wonders.

The bottom line is that conclusion jumping is dangerous. It is a temptation, and it is the quickest way to flush one's credibility into the abyss of irresponsible scaremongers.

So, what about the tsunami? Earthquakes are prophesied in the Bible for the endtime. Was this massive subaquatic 9.0 quake that spawned the tsunami the proverbial 'it'?

### Earthquakes in the Bible

To simplify what could be a complex subject, there are two types of earthquakes that will occur in the endtime. The first is spoken of in Matthew 24:6-8: "...the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows." The earthquakes referenced here are precursors to those that will occur when all things wrap up at Armageddon.

Then there is the 'big one'. Several references are made in the Bible's last book to the great earthquake that will occur at Armageddon. It is discussed in Revelation 6:12, 8:5, 11:13, 11:19, and 16:18. It is one event told from different vantage points, a fact proven by comparing the 6th Seal, 7th Trumpet, 7th Vial, Matthew 24:29 and Ezekiel 38:18-22 (see the first lesson of Understanding the Endtime-Level 3). Since we have not yet reached this point in time, the tsunami did not fulfill any of Revelation's earthquakes; rather, it fulfills the former scripture in Matthew 24 cited above. But that's not the end of the story.

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Geologists have reported that some small islands in the region were literally moved out of their places. Such an event is specifically prophesied to occur at Armageddon. The 6th Seal describes it as a time when “...every mountain and island were moved out of their places” (Revelation 6:14). The 7th Vial, a parallel description of Armageddon, reads, “And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found” (Revelation 16:20).

While this event was obviously not fulfilled on December 26, it is easy for us now to imagine how these passages will be fulfilled by Armageddon's earthquake.

Revelation 16:18: “...and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.” The islands will move.

### **The sea and the waves roaring**

Ponder Luke 21:25: “And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring.”

This scripture is a direct parallel to Matthew 24:29, which as noted above is a direct parallel to the 6th Seal, 7th Trumpet and 7th Vial — the great earthquake at Armageddon. We can now see something we never before stopped to consider — that underwater earthquakes bring forth tsunamis. The sea and the waves will be roaring.

Taking this realization one step further, we now refocus our attention on a passage that has always seemed mysterious. It's Revelation 12:15-16, speaking of a time during the Great Tribulation, meaning before the 6th Seal, 7th Trumpet and 7th Vial: “And the serpent

# WHETSTONE

by John L. Bryant

1. Four women are mentioned by Matthew in Jesus' genealogy, one of these is wrong. A. Tamar B. Ruth C. Bathsheba D. Mary E. Martha
2. By praying, Peter brings this woman, who helped the poor, ... life. A. Salome B. Abigail C. Tabitha (Dorcas) D. Phoebe
3. At their deaths, these two men asked that their executioners be forgiven. A. James — John B. Jesus — Stephen C. Paul — Silas D. Titus — Jude
4. Ruth and Boaz begat Obed, who begat Jesse, and Jesse begat \_\_\_\_\_. A. Cain B. Esau C. Jethro D. David
5. With Hur, supports Moses' hands during a battle (Moses' brother). A. Aaron B. Lot C. Methuselah D. Jared
6. Into which category do you put: Gihon, Pison, Euphrates ...? A. Hot Springs B. Lakes C. Rivers D. Oceans
7. Jesus said “Cast the \_\_\_\_\_ on the right side of the ship.” A. Anchor B. Cargo C. Compass D. Net
8. \_\_\_\_\_ offered a more excellent sacrifice than his brother. A. Abel B. Benjamin C. Adonijah D. Jeroboam
9. It is a \_\_\_\_\_ thing that the king requireth — He forgot the dream. A. Noble B. Rare C. Common D. Easy
10. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be \_\_\_\_\_. A. Ignored B. Convicted C. Saved D. Lost
11. Jesus Christ of the seed of \_\_\_\_\_ was raised from the dead ... A. Laban B. David C. Jehu D. Uriah
12. A testament is of force after men are \_\_\_\_\_. A. Old B. Poor C. Rich D. Dead
13. My people are destroyed for lack of \_\_\_\_\_. A. Knowledge B. Weapons C. Finances D. Riches
14. Every perfect gift is from \_\_\_\_\_. A. Friends B. Parents C. Above D. Below
15. Behold, I will do a \_\_\_\_\_ thing. (Saith the Lord) A. Fancy B. New C. Frantic D. Popular
16. Ye make clean the \_\_\_\_\_ of the cup. A. Inside B. Outside C. Edge (Rim) D. Handle
17. A red dragon, having \_\_\_\_\_ heads, ten horns, and \_\_\_\_\_ crowns. A. 5-5 B. 6-6 C. 7-7 D. 8-8
18. So Hiram gave Solomon \_\_\_\_\_ and fir trees ... A. Cedar B. Maple C. Apple D. Cherry
19. Who kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation? A. Dwarfs B. Giants C. Angels D. Humans
20. In the desert, Philip explained the scripture to the Eunuch from \_\_\_\_\_. A. Italy B. Greece C. Turkey D. Ethiopia

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cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.”

We have always taken this passage to be symbolic, figurative. Could it be literal? Is it possible that a severe earthquake will occur in the Mediterranean sending a tsunami in the direction of Israel — and then a second earthquake along the coast of Israel that creates a chasm large enough to swallow the tsunami wave? Although there is a major fault line along the northern rim of the Mediterranean, at this point this scenario seems too far-fetched to embrace. We are inclined to cling to a metaphorical interpretation of Revelation 12:15-16. And yet...

For certain, the horrific event of December 26 does cause one to take a fresh look at some of these matters.

### 'The big one' is yet to come

Can we assert that the tsunami fulfilled a specific prophecy? The answer is no. There has been a documented dramatic increase in the frequency of earthquakes worldwide in the past 100 years, so in this regard, yes, the tsunami is part of Matthew 24:7's prophecy of earthquakes in various places.

The best way to look at this overwhelming calamity, however, is to see it as a minor precursor to the physical shift prophesied to take place during Armageddon. That is when we will see the simultaneous destruction of Rome and the splitting of the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem 1,200 miles away. The Bible describes this great earthquake as: "...such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great." It will sweep through the Mediterranean, and undoubtedly other parts of the world, producing tsunamis and other devastation never before seen or imagined. It will be so

vast that it will perhaps fundamentally alter the atmospheric conditions of the planet. The book of Isaiah tells us that, during the post-Armageddon millennium, men will again live to be almost 1,000 years of age, as they did in the days before the flood. Some have theorized that, with the flood, there was a tremendous rearrangement of the earth, resulting in shortened life spans. When these cataclysmic events occur at Armageddon, it appears to reverse this condition, restoring earth to the way it was. While this is conjecture, we do know that something is going to happen—whether it is through physical means orchestrated by God or by a purely supernatural occurrence.

This world is getting ready for an incredible shaking. It will be best to be on the Lord's good side when it happens. Isaiah 24:20 prophesies, "The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard." Today it is easier than yesterday to envision how that might happen. e

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