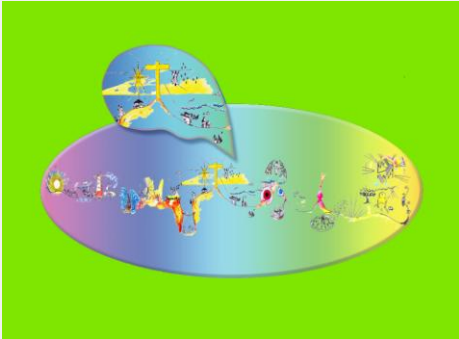


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Eternal Fellowship News Bulletin

We believe in one GOD, in three persons; FATHER, SON and HOLY SPIRIT. We regard the Bible (both Hebrew Bible and New Testament) as the only infallible authoritative WORD OF GOD.

HULDAH MINISTRY aims to return to the Word Of God, founded on Hebrew background and to interpret it from Hebraic perspective, acknowledging that Jesus is a Jew and the Jewish-ness of His teaching as a continuation from the Hebrew Bible. The Ministry also aims to put His teaching into practice, to have a closer relationship with the Lord, Jesus Christ, and to regularly have a Christian fellowship so that this-worldly kingdom of God will materialise in the midst of the followers of Jesus here and now, as well as earnestly seeking Christ's Return to establish the otherworldly Kingdom of God on earth.

All activities are free of charge and no obligation whatever. Just enjoy our fellowship!

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HULDAH MINISTRY

LETTER TO THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST

【ALL UNGODLY THINGS SHAKEN】

No-one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. MATTHEW 24:36-41.

But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

See to it, that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven? At that time his voices shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." The words "once more" indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain.

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our "God is a consuming fire." HEBREWS 12:22-29.

The author of the Book of Hebrews solemnly warns the believers in Christ against rejection of His message of the new covenant blessing, in the passage quoted above. The author first confirms the new covenant blessing by assuring the believers' of their final destiny. By God's free grace which is depicted in Psalm 78:68-71, ***'but he chose the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion, which he loved. He built his sanctuary like the heights, like the earth that he established for ever. He chose David his servant and took him from the sheep pens; from tending the sheep he brought him to be the shepherd of his people Jacob, of Israel his inheritance'***, David, the man after His own heart was chosen to be the first God-chosen king in Israel and the promises were given to David and to his seed after him, and also his throne was established on Mount Zion. Since then, the mount has been the centre of the new covenant. Accordingly, it is not to Mount Sinai, the mount of law, but to Zion, the mount of grace that we, believers in Christ have come. Yet, as Christ's followers' portion is not of this world and we are promised to reign with Him from the heavenly Jerusalem above, i.e., the new Jerusalem, the dwelling place of His bride, so our destination is not to the earthly city Jerusalem. We have come into blessed association with God's holy angels with whom we can share our delight to do the will of God. We have also been made members of the eternal church in Christ, and now we can stand before ***'God, the judge of all men'*** in the blessed consciousness of justification because of Christ's once for all sacrificial death on the cross. The conscious spirits of the Old Testament day's saints, who were credited as righteous are all alive waiting for the resurrection. Indeed they were saved on credit but their redemption had not yet been accomplished until Christ's death and resurrection. As ***'the mediator of a new covenant'*** Christ brought a complete settlement of our sin question and lastly, forgiveness and reconciliation with God, the Father rather than the first martyr, Abel's blood cry for justice and retribution, have been offered through His death at the hand of guilty man.

However, acknowledging His clear proclamation of new covenant: ***'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins'*** (Mt.26:28), in other words, even after we had greater revelation, if we reject Christ as our Saviour, there will be no escape from judgment for those who reject the message. At Sinai, God's voice shook the earth but now the author, quoting from Haggai 2:6, warns that the Lord will "once more" shake not only the earth but also the heavens. The usage of the word "once more" signifies that ultimately only those that cannot be shaken will remain. Here, even believers who ***'are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken'***, i.e., who have already entered into it in spirit are warned as well as the unsaved, not to lose His salvation by irresponsible attitude, but to be consistent in absolute conformity to Christ. When Haggai prophesied times of great shaking he meant both earthquakes in the physical earth and symbolic pictures of collapsing world systems: ***'I will shake the heavens and the earth. I will overturn royal thrones and shatter the power of the foreign kingdoms. I will overthrow chariots and their drivers'*** (Hag.2:21-22), which may well remind us of the immensity of God's judgments in the past such as the destruction upon the whole earth by Noah's flood, upon Sodom and Gomorrah at the time of Abraham, and upon Pharaoh's army at the Red Sea. Accordingly, the shaking in the Scripture is fully relevant with God's judgment.

Christ gave us advance warning about a time of shaking, which would take place shortly before His Second Coming as ***'the beginning of birth pains'***. He also likened the days of His appearance to the days of Noah, when people on earth would be so caught up in the activities of this world, engaged in self-centred, self-satisfied life that they would fail to recognize the signs of His Coming. It turns out to be a very sudden time of judgment, when God will shake the whole world, and everything of man's life will be shaken out of the foundations. The only things which will remain under such shaking are things built upon the foundations of God's Word. God's purpose of the shaking across the entire world is to remove sinful, immoral practice, and all ungodly, —financial, political, social, religious— systems.

God has chosen one particular nation, Israel to teach His way of life so that His chosen nation Israel will be a good witness of Him to the world. The principles of life that please God were first

given to Israel and they have been written in the Scripture. Consequently their teaching has been revealed to all the nations. They cover all things that God required in man's life from the loving care of the poor to the individual responsibility to God and others. In this way God has set a perfect pattern of life to all the nations through Israel. Keeping God's requirement in our lives won't lead anyone to His eternal salvation, even so, it will provide him/her with His blessing on earth. According to the history of Israel recorded in the Scripture, we can learn God's ways of dealing with His people and other nations, and we can follow the way of blessing. If we choose our own ways and they are away from His principles we will inevitably be led to judgment. While God's transient judgment is taking place against man's daily affairs anytime, the time will come when all warnings have been given and His final judgment falls. This is God's opportunity to make us repent of our sins and to rebuild us. When we apply biblical principles to our situations, it would reveal how far we are away from God. Turning our ear to Israel's prophets', we would be wise to heed to their clear warnings and change our way of life according to God's word before it is too late: ***'If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, and if it does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it'*** (Jeremiah 18:7-10).

Amos, another Old Testament prophet, delivered a warning prophecy two years before an earthquake hit in the region of Judah during the reign of Uzziah. His message was focused on the unrepentant God's people Israel and Judah, and consequently the earthquake seemed to take place as a kind of divine reinforcement of the words of judgment. In Amos' days Israel was no longer governed by God's righteous principles. Economy of the land was severely affected and the poor and the weak were unfairly treated. There was neither justice nor morality, and perverted, corrupt religion, greed, dishonesty prevailed. All leaders were corrupt. These prophets of the Bible have a clear message for us today. Their warnings are very much relevant to each of us. Taking what is happening today in the Middle East, —a dangerous possibility of eruption of nuclear wars—and in Japan, —a terrible aftermath of radioactive contamination widely beyond the earthquake- and tsunami-stricken area— into consideration, it is without doubt time to sincerely seek God through the Word and God's complete revelation, Jesus Christ.

The following excerpt from *'Earthquake In The City'* by Clifford Denton & Paul Slennett, tells us of the severity of having debt in the world, which the Scripture warns: ***'Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another'*** (Ro.13:8). Having no debt is the most important one of God's principles, though the church has often tended to ignore it. Later in the year, an incident took place in Paul's life which emphasised the reality of what can happen when economic problem occur. It also demonstrates that anyone can be affected by the economic shaking which is to come, including Christians. What happened also shows how a physical sign can accompany a financial judgment. The experience of believers is that God can and will deliver us out of difficulties, but Paul and his family had to persevere through this trial and reap the consequences of the woe that came upon them. This will be the pattern for many of us, so what we will describe next has warnings for many people from all walks of life, as well as the leaders of national institutions and companies. The chief warning is about debt which has come about by covetousness. When debts are called in at a time of financial crisis, for some people there will result personal or corporate bankruptcy, and the distress which this brings.

Around the time that prophecy was given, Paul and his family were contemplating a house move. They owned a small four bedroom house but wanted to move to a different area and were attracted by a larger and more expensive house. Their motives for the move itself seemed to be sound – to move closer to good schools and to the church they were attending. However, Paul made the mistake of saying that he would only move if it was to a better house. He now recognises that his motives were not pure. In fact, the move proved to be very difficult, because they could not sell their original house. The family's life savings were

used and the balance was borrowed, on the assumption that the bulk of this would be paid back when the original house was sold. The move took place in July 1989 while their first house was still on the market.

Three things then happened simultaneously, all in the same month, which was like a financial earth tremor to the family. First, the Chancellor put up interest rates to a record level. Secondly, house prices collapsed. Thirdly, there was a sudden dramatic subsidence in the foundations of the wall of the garage of the new house. A wall, extending from their garage to their neighbour's adjoining garage, simply sank into the ground, leaving a gap right across, where the upper portion has separated from the lower portion.

The result of all this was that the unsold house went down in value by £15,000 and still did not sell, and the large house could not be sold due to the subsidence. To add to the problems, the neighbour's house which was already suffering from subsidence, then incurred additional damage due to strong winds the following January. The wall of the main bedroom collapsed. The rebuilding of the neighbour's house and garage, together with Paul's garage, made the sale of the larger house impossible. Meanwhile, the family debt was rising due to deferred interest.

The rebuilding of the neighbour's house together with Paul's garage led to a full three and a half years of woe. Then the larger house was sold and the family moved back to the first house. The financial consequences were that all of the family savings were lost and the enormous accumulated debt had to be paid.

One can only imagine the effect of this financial difficulty on the family, but many people could be trapped in this sort of way in our debt-laden society. Paul's initial response was to lose heart; he felt like giving up and did not know how to pray. Here is an important lesson. This is the natural way to respond when the foundations of our life are shaken, But Paul realised his error, both in the wrong motives of the house transactions and in regard to repentance. He had sinned, but now recognised his sin, as King David had done in his adultery with Bathsheba, and just as God told King David that he could not keep the fruit of his sin, namely, the baby that was to be born, so Paul could not keep the object of his sin, namely the house. He felt that God said to him, 'Will you trust the housing market to get you out of trouble or trust me?' This brought the family to prayer and the house then sold at a tremendous loss. Eventually, due to God's faithfulness and mercy, financial stability returned.

Paul felt that he had learned a lesson that will apply to many people when the financial shaking comes to the nation. Sin and failing to seek God's guidance were the reasons for the financial problems and this led to deep trouble when the collapse came suddenly. However, God was faithful and responded to confession and repentance. When a financial collapse hits this nation there will be many consequences to face for many people and it will not be easy, but the right response will be to turn in faith and repentance to God, who will help. Paul also felt that, in the collapsing of the wall of his garage, God was also saying that our lives need to be built on the right foundations, and that this applies to both the nation and to individuals.

The Bible warns clearly about the disasters which can befall us when our business is done in sinful ways. Just as Paul Slennett's day of reckoning came so it will be for many others when disaster strikes suddenly. (Jer.22:13-14, Hab.2:6-7, :9, Mt. 7:26-27).

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This month, a money gift of ¥***** has been donated as relief aid and Christian assistance for people suffering from the aftermath of the disaster in Japan on 11th March.

Thanks to many nations' and peoples' fervent prayers and substantial aids over Japan's recovery since such unprecedented big earthquake and tsunami, its recovery has been remarkable even in the severely damaged areas. While the reconstruction process is tirelessly going on with the help of many volunteers in very widespread areas, the most important thing for Christians is to ask the Lord to make this disaster His opportunity to work out His salvation throughout Japan. The matter of the nuclear accident induced by the disaster and its long-term adverse effects have not been settled yet and so we appreciate your continual prayer over these issues.