

## “EARTHQUAKE: God’s Seismic Love for Our Broken Planet”—Part Two

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- **“I alone am left.”**
  - II Kings 19:9, 10
  - Oswald Chambers: “No sin is worse than the sin of \_\_\_\_\_, because it obliterates God and puts self-interest on the throne. It opens our mouths to spit out murmurings and our lives become craving spiritual sponges, there is nothing lovely or generous about them.” (*My Utmost for His Highest* 137)
  - “Your \_\_\_\_\_ is an injury to you; you sympathize with yourself, feel that you are not esteemed as you should be, that your work is altogether too hard, and your best efforts are unappreciated. These feelings are the result of a spiritual disease . . . this spiritual malaria.” (*Sons and Daughters of God* 298)
  - *Prophets and Kings*: “[Moses] failed just on the borders of the Promised Land. So with Elijah. He who had maintained his trust in Jehovah during the years of drought and famine, he who had stood undaunted before Ahab, he who throughout that trying day on Carmel had stood before the whole nation of Israel the sole witness to the true God, in a moment of weariness allowed the fear of death to overcome his faith in God. And so it is today. . . . Despondency may shake the most heroic faith and weaken the most steadfast will. But God understands, and He still pities and loves. . . . [1] To \_\_\_\_\_ patiently, [2] to \_\_\_\_\_ when everything looks dark, is the lesson that [we] need to learn. Heaven will not fail [us] in [our] day of adversity. *Nothing is apparently more helpless, yet really more invincible, than the soul that feels its nothingness and relies wholly on God.*” (174, 175 emphasis supplied)
  
- **“The LORD was not in the earthquake.”**
  - I Kings 19:9, 11-13
  - “A still small voice” (NIV—“a gentle whisper”/NASB—“a sound of a gentle blowing”/NRSV—“a sound of sheer silence”)
    - *God is not in the cataclysms that strike the earth—he is in the silence that follows the disaster.*
    - Job 4:15, 16 NIV
  - It is the \_\_\_\_\_ after the after-shock that is God’s most potent moment to reveal his seismic love.
  
- **“I have reserved 7000.”**
  - I Kings 19:13-14, 18
  - Romans 11:2-5
  - In a world that looks dark and pagan and lost, God declares he has a \_\_\_\_\_—not just a visible remnant like Elijah, but an \_\_\_\_\_ remnant like the 7000.
  - *Prophets and Kings*: “Among earth’s inhabitants, scattered in every land, there are those who have not bowed the knee to Baal. Like the stars of heaven, which appear only at night, these faithful ones will shine forth when darkness covers the earth and gross darkness the people. In heathen Africa, in the Catholic lands of Europe and of South America, in China, in India, in the islands of the sea [Japan], and in all the dark corners of the earth [the secular West], God has in reserve a firmament of \_\_\_\_\_ that will yet shine forth amidst the darkness.” (188, 189)
  - Thus the mountain of Elijah (Mt Sinai) and the mountain of Jesus (Mt Calvary) are inextricably bound together:
    - On one mountain God asks the hero, “Why are you here?”
    - On the other mountain the Hero asks God, “Why aren’t You here?”

- On one mountain the hero cries out, "I alone am left."
- On the other mountain the Hero sobs, "I am left alone."
  - On one mountain He is calling Elijah.
  - On the other mountain they whisper, "He is calling Elijah."
- On one mountain an earthquake strikes to teach a truth.
- On the other mountain an earthquake strikes to prove the Truth.
  - On one mountain there is a still small voice.
  - On the other mountain there is "a shriek, shrill and agonizing."
- But on both mountains what is inescapable is the simple truth of God's seismic love for our broken world.

*"So what are you doing here?"*

Self-pity, self-pity, wait, trust, after-silence, remnant, invisible, chosen ones,