

OF EARTHQUAKES AND VOLCANOES

It seems that we have had more than the normal quota of earthquakes and volcanoes in recent months. There have been earthquakes in Haiti, Chili, Baja California, China, and Indonesia. And, those are only the “big ones.” In just one day, such as April 18, the U. S. Geological Survey recorded 14 earthquakes of 4.5 magnitude or higher throughout the world. There were many more smaller ones.

And, now, we have the eruption of the Eyjafjallajokull Volcano in Iceland. The U. S. military refers to the episode as E-15. (That is the first letter of the volcano’s name, with 15 other letters following.) E-15 is easier to pronounce.

Life for us humans on this planet is being affected by these natural occurrences. The volcano eruption in Iceland has dramatically affected lives across the globe. Even I am not exempt. My housekeeper and cook is marooned in Ireland and cannot get back to the United States for another week, if then. That, certainly, is having an effect on my daily life.

Some might like to think of these events, which become disasters for us, as some sort of punishment from God. They do make one think. However, I do not believe that God deliberately intends the suffering of those experiencing the effects of these geological events. Natural disasters are just that. What we call nature is actually the scheme of things (or laws) that the Creator has inserted into his creation. These take their normal course, resulting in natural reactions. Frequently, due to the choices that we make, we become involved in them.

What this all reminds me of is the awesome power of the Almighty God. Our planet is a changing planet. It has not always looked the way that it does now, nor will it in the future. Think of it. We are living on the surface of a globe that is not only traveling through space but is dynamic within its interior, as well.

As a planet within the cosmos, the earth is like a living organism where events happen deep inside it. These can and do affect what happens on its surface, something like what occurs in our own bodies. We have the rub and slip of tectonic plates floating on a molten mass and the build up of pressure and steam. As a result, we experience a shift of the earth’s crust toward the surface, causing an earthquake, or the release of tremendous forces, causing volcanic activity.

The earth revolves and tilts on its axis, causing day to follow night and Spring to follow Winter. That is the way the almighty, self-existing, intellegent, loving force we call God set it up. And we, along with all the other creatures, are a part of it. As I write this, someone is predicting an enormous earthquake to occur in California within the next few days. If it is to happen, it will happen. No one will be able to stop it. All that we can do is be prepared for it.

Jesus spoke of earthquakes and such calamities. He referred to them as signals that should prompt humans, as the apex of God’s creation, to get serious about their existence. In other words, - be prepared.

Realizing what powerful forces exist within God’s creation, we cannot but marvel at the awesome dominion that is his. The greatest effect that the recent geological occurences could have on our lives would be to have them be changed, as well, - also from within.