

Revelation 11:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.

Analysis

The great earthquake killing seven thousand represents partial judgment leading survivors to fear and give glory to God. Unlike previous judgments where hearts remained hardened (9:20-21), this provokes proper response. The number seven thousand may echo 1 Kings 19:18's remnant who hadn't bowed to Baal, suggesting God preserves a faithful minority. 'Gave glory to God' could indicate genuine repentance or mere fear-driven acknowledgment. Reformed theology recognizes that God's judgments sometimes break hard hearts, bringing some to salvation. The tenth part destroyed shows measured judgment, not total annihilation.

Historical Context

Jerusalem experienced earthquakes throughout history, including at Christ's crucifixion (Matthew 27:51). The imagery would resonate with residents of seismically active regions. Earthquakes in Scripture often accompany divine appearances or judgments (Exodus 19:18, Ezekiel 38:19). The specific numbers suggest symbolic completeness—seven thousand, tenth part—rather than precise mathematics.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do you distinguish between fear-driven acknowledgment of God and genuine repentance?
2. What role do God's judgments play in bringing some to salvation, and how should this inform your prayers during calamities?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἐν ἐκείνῃ τῇ ὥρᾳ ἐγένοντο σεισμῷ μέγας καὶ
And in G1565 G3588 hour was there earthquake a great And
G2532 G1722 G5610 G1096 G4578 G3173 G2532

τὸ δέκατον τῆς πόλεως ἐπεσεν καὶ ἀπεκτάνθησαν ἐν
G3588 the tenth part G3588 of the city fell And were slain in
G1182 G4172 G4098 G2532 G615 G1722

τῷ σεισμῷ ὄνόματα ἀνθρώπων χιλιάδες ἑπτά καὶ οἱ
G3588 earthquake G3686 of men thousand seven And G3588
G4578 G444 G5505 G2033 G2532

λοιποὶ ἐμφοβοὶ ἐγένοντο καὶ ἐδωκαν δόξαν τῷ
the remnant affrighted was there And gave glory G3588
G3062 G1719 G1096 G2532 G1325 G1391

θεῷ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ
to the God G3588 of heaven
G2316 G3772

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 14:7 (Glory): Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

Revelation 6:12 (Parallel theme): And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

Joshua 7:19 (Glory): And Joshua said unto Achan, My son, give, I pray thee, glory to the LORD God of Israel, and make confession unto him; and tell me now what thou hast done; hide it not from me.

Revelation 11:11 (References God): And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.

Revelation 8:5 (Parallel theme): And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.

Revelation 15:4 (Parallel theme): Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

Revelation 11:19 (References God): And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.

Jeremiah 13:16 (Glory): Give glory to the LORD your God, before he cause darkness, and before your feet stumble upon the dark mountains, and, while ye look for light, he turn it into the shadow of death, and make it gross darkness.

Revelation 19:7 (Parallel theme): Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.