

## **"Seismic Shift"**

How many of you have experienced a real earthquake? Not a tremor...but the real deal?

I think that of all the unexpected events that we see in creation, earthquakes are the most frightening....they come without warning....they literal rock your foundation....and nothing is the same when they are done. Tornados, Hurricanes, and others you can see coming....earthquakes not so much.

Earthquakes in the Bible often tell the story of God. In fact, we will see today that earthquakes tell the story of Easter.

Throughout Scripture this story is told of life that began in the Garden of Eden.....A life lead by the Spirit but lived in the flesh...Then sin came and the Spirit of God left.....and what remained, our flesh, was destined to die.....When Jesus came to earth He brought the Spirit of God back to lead us....but in order for us to accept the Spirit of God....we had to surrender our flesh to die....The price for our flesh was Jesus' taking the punishment for us on the cross.....The Bible is very clear.

We are not here today because we believe a certain philosophy about how to live our lives....we are not here because we believe the Ten Commandments are the key to pleasing God....We are not here to perform our way into the top of God's grading curve....We are not here today because we are special, sinless, or even good people.....We are not here today because we have good moral standards....

We are here today....we call ourselves Christians today....not because we follow a series of religious beliefs....but because of a moment in human history.

On a Friday afternoon....a day in history....just like Pearl Harbor...Just like 9/11....there was a day in history when a very real man who was also a very real God....went to the cross...to take our place....because a Just God had to pour out His wrath for all the sins of the world.....and then on Sunday morning....that Godman vanished out of His own tomb....and on that day....death died for those who believe in Him.

We don't perform our way into salvation....we can't. We don't pay our way into salvation....God already has everything....We don't think our way into salvation....it not a matter of intellect or knowledge....it is a matter of the Heart.

We are saved from death because we believe from our hearts that Jesus is God....He came to earth...That we are sinners with no hope of saving ourselves from God's punishment for our sins....that on Friday He not only died in our place but He suffered for our sins....He was sinless but He took our place....God punished Him for our sins.....We didn't die.....He died for us....and on Sunday He rose to save us....It is not a religion...it is a fact....a true moment in History...and it changed everything.

Matthew 27:59–61 (ESV) 59 And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud 60 and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. 61 Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

Mary Magdalene...I want us today...to follow the events of the cross and resurrection through the eyes of Mary Magdalene. She is the one person who saw everything. Everything.

She is the only eyewitness to every event that occurred. She saw far more than any of the disciples....She encountered the resurrected Jesus before any disciple...and the message of what had happened was given to her...not to the disciples.

If you want to understand in a deeper way what really happened...stick with the eyewitness. I want to warn you that some of the things that you think you know about that Easter morning....never happened. You have seen so many paintings, images, and greeting cards at Easter that you believe what is actually not in Scripture....but we will get to that.

We know little about this woman other than that her name indicates that she was from Magdala in Galilee. Historically she has been portrayed as a prostitute but that was never clear in scripture. The false gospels written in the 2nd and 3rd century tried to portray that Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene, had a child or children and then married a second woman....clearly not true and thus not Scripture. No matter what A&E and the Discovery Channel say. Let's look at what God says about her

Luke 8:1–3 (ESV) — 1 Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him, 2 and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out,

Somewhere in Galilee she met Jesus, who cast seven demons out of her. She then joined the band of disciples and followed Jesus wherever he went.

Mary saw everything that weekend. She was at the cross....long after the disciples had fled and were hiding.

Matthew 27:55–56 (ESV) 55 There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him, 56 among whom were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

She saw Him die, she saw them take Him down from the cross, she saw them carry Him to the tomb, she saw them wrap his body and place him in the tomb and she helped initially prepare his body until the Sabbath made her stop.

Mary was one of the last people to see the body of Christ...as it was placed in the tomb.

And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. 61 Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

On Friday Jesus was left on the burial preparation bench in the receiving room of the tomb chamber. No doubt the women thought they could return following the Sabbath, roll back the stone, and complete the burial, sliding Jesus' body into one of the tomb's burial niches

While the Jewish people were observing the Sabbath on Saturday, Pilate had other concerns.

Matthew 27:62–66 (ESV) 62 The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate 63 and said, "Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise.' 64 Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will be worse than the first." 65 Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can." 66 So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

Now often when we think of a story like Easter we think we now the story because we have heard it so many times. What did Mary find that Sunday morning when she arrived at the tomb?

Most people say that she found the tomb empty and the stone rolled away. We picture here coming across a literal empty tomb with no one around.

That is the image that you see on every painting...every Easter Card and the image you have likely in your head. The problem is that the accounts of the resurrection are very difficult to follow through the four gospels. Some seem to blend the times Mary and the others were at the tomb that morning, others seem to break them into the first trip, the return of the disciples and then the second trip back.

This drives our logical time sequenced give me the facts western mind crazy. But the key point for a Jewish audience is simple...the tomb was empty, angels were involved, and God did it. But the picture that you almost never see on the greeting cards are the ones from the story as Matthew reports it. Mary arrived at the tomb with the other women they found the tomb closed and the Roman Guards guarding it. We are told that Mary and the other women were concerned about this very scenario. How would they get the stone rolled back?

It wasn't at sunrise....she and the other women came in the dark. Probably between 4 and 5 am. I read somewhere years ago that on that day the sun rose at about 6:12am.

Matthew 28:1–4 (ESV) 1 Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2 And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 4 And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men.

The stories of Easter always seem to show a beautiful garden...with wonderful flowers...butterflies...birds...and sunrise....but that is not the full historical truth.

It was pitch dark....4am...Roman Guards who had tortured Jesus....now standing over his tomb. Then there is a huge earthquake. God is shaking things up. Earthquakes in the Bible often signify the presence and actions of God. When God wants us to know that He is the one doing something...it often comes with an earthquake.

God's presence on Mt Sinai was manifested by an earthquake.....Peter would be freed from Prison during God's earthquake...Earthquakes would be labor pains for end times events....When Jesus returns and earthquake will rip the mount of olives in two...Earthquakes are all through Revelation...but in our story....the Easter story...there are two earthquakes to focus on. Both are huge to notice and both often get overlooked.

The Earthquakes that weekend announced the power and presence of God and we tend to take them out of the story to make it peaceful and pretty. Both earthquakes basically said....GOD IS HERE...and GOD IS SOLVING OUR TWO PROBLEMS WITH HIM.

Our sin caused two major problems with God. Our sin ruined our relationship with God and our sin caused all of us to die...And Through the Two Earthquakes God is shaking things up and saying I got both of these for you.

Friday afternoon...earthquake number one.

Matthew 27:50–54 (ESV) 50 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. 51 And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split.

Our Sin separated us from God. It was always a barrier in our relationship. The curtain in the temple reminded people that they could not access the Holy of Holies because of their sin condition. If the High Priest cleaned up once a year...He could enter...but no one else.

So when Jesus died on the cross...the first thing He solved was the relationship. He made it to where man was no longer separated relationally from God because of his sin.

Our relationship with Jesus would forever change and we will see that in a bit with Mary Magdalene....but never again will man have to be separated from God....at least not from God's perspective.

Translation...Earthquake number one. I am God...I am here... and I just restored our relationship. The tomb is closed and guarded. No human can do anything about it. Jesus is dead...the women were discussing how to get the stone rolled away....the Roman guards who had tortured Jesus were probably not going to let them near the body....It all seemed hopeless....

The earthquake...announced that God was here to solve the problem....Not just the problem of how to get the stone rolled away...God was here to solve our death problem.

Translated...Friday I restored our relationship...earthquake number one...and today I am solving your death problem...earthquake number 2.

You couldn't have done either on your own...I am working in your midst to save you....to overcome death and to restore our relationship...what was lost in the garden I am restoring in this garden...The earthquake is my calling card.

And the Angel...is my stamp of approval. Notice something else very unusual about this angel. Usually angels just kind of show up...they appear and say Fear not....But this angel didn't do that....This angel...see it? Descended from Heaven...they say this angel come down to them in the dark...it was dark by the way...4am...like a star...maybe like a meteor...this angel descended from heaven.

And the angel rolled the stone away and then amazingly sat on it! Sitting down was a sign of triumph, victory, completion....The archangels had always proclaimed Jesus was God...now He proved it...and they can sit and enjoy the moment. They announced the birth of Jesus and now they are announcing the true revelation of Jesus. The completion of his earthly mission.

That picture that you have in mind of the beautiful garden, the flat pretty ground..the stone beautifully rolled away in its track...the sun just rising behind the tomb...apparently rising in the west that day....is pretty...but it is devoid of the true power of God on display that morning

So change your Easter Morning serene sunrise empty tomb image...Picture God shaking up the world. Pitch dark, earthquakes, angel descending from heaven, rolling away the huge stone by himself....and oh yeah picture the Big Tough Roman Guards....cowering in fear like they were dead. Picture the stone rolled to the side among all the other stones now tossed around the garden...plants uprooted...ground uneven...dust everywhere...Now you have the image of what it looks like when God solves our death problem.

And Mary and the other women were the only Jewish witnesses to this display of God's power

When we clean up the Easter Story....we remove the power of God. The Cross has been cleaned up for decades and so has the resurrection.

Matthew 28:5–8 (ESV) 5 But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you."

Mary is told what happened but she does not yet understand it. She knows God opened the tomb, she is told by the angel that He has risen, but she doesn't comprehend it. She is in shock.

She did not expect the Roman Guards to be there. Had no idea why they were there or what they were doing. No doubt she thought the Roman Guards were there to take His body not guard the grave. She was on Sabbath when Herod placed them there. They had to be a surprise to her .

John 20:1–3 (ESV) — 2 So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." 3 So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. 4 Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in.

Some had tried to accuse the disciples of stealing the body to make it look like Jesus had reurrected, but the quick response of Peter and the other disciple shows that the disciples were not responsible for removing the body. Had they been aware of an official removal, or had some of their own number been involved in a conspiracy, they would not have been so concerned.

John 20:6–10 (ESV) — 6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, 7 and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. 8 Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; 9 for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. 10 Then the disciples went back to their homes.

The scene, then, is not chaotic or confused. Rather, something purposeful has transpired here. If someone had simply stolen Jesus' body, surely the clothes would be missing, or at least strewn about the floor. But here is a scene in which the body is missing but the clothes appear undisturbed. Jesus' body has simply left them behind. We can also assume that a significant collection of burial spices rests nearby the clothes

Ok so I hate to do this but that image of Jesus walking out of the tomb....probably never happened. His body vanished. Mary was standing there when the angel rolled the stone back....she looked inside and saw that the body was gone....she didn't understand it...then she ran to tell the others. If Jesus had walked out of the tomb she would have seen Him. He appears to her soon in His resurrected body.

Notice that the two disciples didn't understand what had occurred either....first they didn't believe the women...now they don't know what to believe themselves.

John 20:11–13 (ESV) — 11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. 12 And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. 13 They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him."

This is one of the few places in the Bible where someone encounters angels and they are not stricken with fear. It shows that Mary was so grieved at the loss of Jesus that she was unaffected even by an appearance of angels. Also these angels were not present when John and Peter looked in at the linens...These angels were sent by God specifically for Mary Magdalene.

No description is given of the angels. When angels appear in the Bible, they are usually recognized by their powers rather than by any significant difference from human form. Mary did not respond to them in any unusual way, possibly because her eyes were clouded with tears, or because she was preoccupied with the loss of Jesus' body.

Mary is frustrated...She just wanted to pay her last respects to the body of Jesus. They have killed her Savior...she had been a witness to that horrible event....

Mary was probably concerned that the body had been violated as well. Leaders often did this to punish other presumed kings. They parade their body in the streets....hang them from the town square...put their heads on a post.....She is imagining that the worst event ever may be actually getting worse....And being Jewish she was particularly concerned....Proper burial was regarded by the Jews as an inherent part of their faith

She had no thought of resurrection yet, and believed the corpse has been stolen.

So Mary is freaking out....and the angels ask her what seems to her to be a stupid question...."Woman Why are you crying?"

They don't address the missing body...they try to suggest to Mary that sorrow is not what the present moment requires.

Mary was so messed up that she missed the significance of angels being present in the tomb....She missed that this tomb was no longer in the hands of humans.....this was now holy ground.

Mary you are not longer standing in a tomb....you are in a womb.

John 20:14–15 (ESV) — 14 Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."

"Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" he asks her. At the very beginning, death had come to Adam and Eve and the rest of us in a garden. Now, life is coming back in another garden. And, of course, Jesus is indeed the Gardener. He is the One tending to this new life for all of us

Notice that Jesus asks the same question that the angel asked.....Why are you weeping???!!!! Why am I weeping!!! What is the matter with you guys....they have taken the body of my Savior away! Friday they tortured and killed Him now they want to humiliate Him.

Then as always Jesus moves to a deeper question.... a question that cuts to the essence of the moment. "Who is it you are looking for?"

Jesus asks then, "Whom are you seeking?"—not what, but "whom?" And, assuming that this "stranger" may have been involved in moving Jesus' body to a permanent grave, Mary asks if she may have the body to care for it. This is a small way in which she can show her love.

Mary's response to both the angels and Jesus are the same with one exception. She tells the angels, she does not know where "they" have put the stolen body. Then she pleads with Jesus that if he has taken the body, she would take care of it if he would only tell her where it was laid.

Her mind remains on the problem of the tomb, while Jesus is trying to lift her to something higher...something spiritual

Jesus and the Angels are trying to help Mary understand that the entire world has changed....Where His body is....in no longer important....She knew the godman Jesus...now she must learn how to interact with the Son of God.

No one from this moment on...will seek Jesus as they knew Him in the flesh.....He would now present Himself to Mary and to every other person in the Spirit. Jesus is letting Mary know that He has changed everything.

Jesus' question points her in another direction. The reality of meeting him is more important than the riddle of the tomb.

She is about to understand that the way she relates to Jesus will never again be the same....

Notice the mistaken identity....or is it?

"Supposing Him to be the gardener...." Do you remember all the times I have shared with you that nothing in the Bible is there by accident?

The Story of God started in a Garden and God Himself was the gardener.....

And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed.

Who was the caretaker....the gardener of Eden?

Genesis 2:15 (ESV) — 15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

The First Adam....Adam....after God breathed life into him.....was given the assignment of caring and nurturing God's Garden....until of course he sinned.

Now the Second Adam....Jesus....God has breathed Spiritual life into....and given Him the assignment of caring for and nurturing God's Garden.....His new family of believers.

God says of the exiles from Judah, "I will build them up, and not tear them down; I will plant them, and not pluck them up." Furthermore, Jesus's parable from casts God as a vinedresser.

Jesus is the gardener of the new Eden, doing what Adam could not do. His resurrection broke ground in this garden, marking the beginning of a massive restoration project.

Jesus "plants" us and grows us. He gets his hands dirty in the soil of our hearts, bringing us to life and cultivating us with care so that we flourish.

Supposing Him to be a gardener....Why?

Because He is

John 20:15–16 (ESV) —16 Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).

It is then the risen Christ speaks her name—tenderly, but with all the authority of one who has conquered death, It is the Shepherd calling one of His sheep, and Mary knows the voice.

Only one thing was necessary to establish Jesus' identity—his uttering her name. No gardener would ever know her name, and no one else would pronounce it the way Jesus did

Then she "turned" to Him; she changes directions. It is the movement from grief to joy, from death to life. And in adoration and wonder, she falls at His feet and utters, "Rabboni!" This is the title one gives to Jesus at the beginning of faith.

This is significant....Jesus calls us...personally...intimately....we recognize the voice....but we must turn....turn toward Him...toward His plans for us...His path for us....We must respond when Jesus calls our name....And note the response...to Fall at His feet in worship.

John 20:17 (ESV) — 17 Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' "

Why didn't Jesus want Mary to touch Him? Actually, the ancient Greek construction of this phrase "means to stop an action already begun rather than to avoid starting it." Mary was holding on to Jesus and did not want to let Him go.

That is our response to the Good News of Jesus resurrecting too.

This shows that the resurrection body of Jesus was different, yet similar to His pre-resurrection body. It was definitely real and tangible, and Jesus not a phantom.

Jesus tells Mary not to hold him because he has not yet ascended to the Father but then directs her to go and tell his disciples that he is presently ascending to the Father

And she clings to Jesus, Mary is trying to grasp Jesus as He was before the Crucifixion, living as a human in the flesh with all the human limitations...But Jesus is beginning to reveal to her that everything has changed.

Jesus has changed everything. Her image of Him...as a human...in the flesh...is about to change. From this moment forward, no one will encounter Jesus physically until the end. He is now spiritual and we will encounter Him spiritually.

Jesus is trying to help her to understand...not so much don't touch me....but you must connect with me spiritually from now on....He is revealing that the way of relating to Him was about to completely change...He was soon going to ascend to Heaven...to the Father.

You knew me as Jesus the human Godman....now you must realize that I am the Second Person of the Trinity...I am God...no longer human. Thus I am going to where I belong...to Heaven.

Mary you must let go of me...Everything has changed...I must go to the Father.

Jesus is telling Mary that we we would no longer relate to Him through the physical senses....He was now a Spiritual being....physical stuff doesn't matter anymore....His body...where is it? Who cares? The tomb? No longer important....Jesus was soon ascending to Heaven....

When He told Mary to stop clinging to Him....He was saying so much more than just don't touch....

He was telling her and us...that we can't hold on to Jesus in the flesh any more than we can continue to hold on to ourselves in the flesh.

The World has completely changed...The Spirit of God lost in the Garden of Eden is now restored in the this Garden. It is the Spirit of God that we must surrender to and follow.

This was what Mary Magdalen had to learn. She could no longer cling to the Christ she had known earlier.

Mary is now to go to the "brothers," Previously He had called them His disciples and His friends....but now for the first time...they are His brothers.....

The use of the word "brothers" placed the disciples on a new plane of relationship with himself. Now that the sin issue has been taken care of....there is a new relationship...for those who believe.



Jesus' gives Mary an assignment....You can't stay here and cling to me.....you have to go tell others what you have seen....what you have experienced....

That is the message of Easter in one sentence. You can't stay here...and cling to me...you must go tell everyone what has happened.

You can't stay here....Here...in this church....Here in your home...Here with your worship music,...here in your quiet time...here in your small group....here....in your comfortable place .YOU CAN'T STAY HERE AND CLING TO ME! That is not why I died and resurrected. I died and resurrected so that those who are my brothers and sisters.....leave their place of comfort...stop only clinging to me...and go tell the world what you have witnessed.

John 20:18 (ESV) — 18 Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord" — and that he had said these things to her.

Luke notes the tragedy that when the women at the tomb report their experiences to the disciples, the men are incredulous

Luke 24:10–11 (ESV) — 10 Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, 11 but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.

Don't miss this....the very first time the Gospel was shared with another human....they didn't believe it....and they were His disciples!

In this gospel, she is the very first person to whom the Risen Jesus reveals himself. And she is the very first of his followers to announce the Resurrection of the Lord. Mary is also the very first person to feel the rejection of the greatest news in all of human history.

The fact that Jesus makes a woman the first witness of His resurrection is significant. The law courts of that day would not recognize the testimony of a woman, but Jesus did.

This also argues for the historic truth of this account. If you were making this story up, you would never make a woman the primary witness to everything that had happened.

Twice on that Easter Weekend....God shook up the world...He first solved our relationship problem then He solved our death problem. On that first Easter weekend...God rocked Mary's World. He destroyed all of her ideas about who Jesus was supposed to be and revealed to her who He really is...God. He changed the way that she would forever interact with and worship Him. No longer in the flesh....now only in the Spirit. No longer able to stay and cling....only empowered now to go and tell.

We need to Study Mary Magdalene at Easter because her experience that day....is our experience.

Have you ever experienced one of God's earthquakes in your life? Has God ever allowed something that rocked your foundation? That moment when you realize that what you thought you knew about God wasn't really God at all? That moment when God literally shakes you at your foundation and does something completely new? When your world gets turned upside down and God's invites you to a relationship? Tearing the veil...the wall you have put up...in your relationship with Him?

That seismic moment when you realize that God is calling you out of your tomb.....inviting you to join Him in the resurrection and become part of the Spiritual realm where He works. Leaving your flesh behind...just like He did...and living in the Spirit? God bringing a foundational change into your life and calling you to a higher place.... to a spiritual place...destroying anything that you are trusting other than Him?

God has a way of bringing spiritual earthquakes into our lives to get us to test our foundation, to find out about the strength of our faith, and to understand where we have truly placed our trust. His earthquake in your life busts up the rocks of pride, self sufficiency, arrogance, money, entitlement, patriotism, intelligence, humanism....anything that you have placed ahead of Him. So let me close with this...As you sit here this Easter Sunday...what is your spiritual Richter scale reading? Is God shaking your foundation and revealing your fault line? Is He showing you that what you have placed your trust in....is shaky ground? Is He rocking your world so that you can become part of His? Is He using the events in your life to show you weaknesses in your bedrock? Is He sending an angel of light into your darkness? If so are you falling away in fear seemingly dead like the Roman Soldiers.... or like Mary, drawn to and clinging to Jesus?

On this Easter Sunday 2020 is Jesus' burial place a tomb where His life ended? Or a womb where your life began? Jesus said that it is through our faith....our trust that these historical moments happened...that we can join Him in the resurrection.

The earthquake that God allows in your life does two things....It tears down whatever you have trusted instead of God....and it forces you to a decision point. Sadly, often God can't get our attention unless He first rocks our foundation.

So let's cut to the chase. One day...a day God has already determined...your life here on earth will end. Your body that houses your soul will eventually cease to exist. When your moment comes...and it will...What will become of you?

When God created us...He placed eternity inside of us...We all seem to know that there is something beyond this world....That when we cease to exist here...we begin to exist somewhere else. So far, God has been right about everything He has written in the Holy Scriptures. Not one mistake yet. So when God tells us about eternity...I am going to believe Him.

Some things in the Bible are hard to understand, but God make this one crystal clear. God tells us that we will either Join Jesus in Heaven or Satan in Hell for all of eternity. Simple...straight forward...consistently repeated in Scripture....not even debated by serious scholars. You cant read God's Word with any integrity and deny that He believes Hell is a very real place. Jesus spoke more often about a literal Hell- a place of fire, torment and gnashing of teeth....than He did a literal heaven.

In fact, you can't really believe in heaven and erase Hell. They either both exist exactly as God revealed them to us...or neither exists. But here is the deal. No matter what you think.... the only thing that really matters is what God says is true. Your opinions compared to God's truth are just ramblings of a fool. You can think Hell doesn't exist if that works for you....until you find yourself there. Your opinion doesn't take away or change God's truth. God's truth was true long before He created you and allowed you to have an opinion.

But this is what you need to know this day....IF you reject Jesus long enough....God will stop shaking up your world. There is a point in your life...where God gives you what you want... God says that He will give you over to your debased mind....Harden your heart long enough and it will stay that way.

The story of Easter is a reminder...a spiritual tremor...ok a huge earthquake...to remind us that tomorrow is never promised to us.....when it comes to you and your eternity, you must decide....was Jesus' grave a Tomb or a womb?And that changes everything.... Let's Pray.