

# SHAKING THE FOUNDATIONS

*For the windows above are opened, and the foundations of the earth shake. The earth is broken asunder, the earth is split through, and the earth is shaken violently. The earth reels to and fro like a drunkard, and it totters like a shack, for its transgression is heavy upon it, and it will happen **in that day**, that the LORD will punish the host of heaven, on high, and the kings of the earth, on earth.*

*Isaiah 24: 19-21*

- **Allegory and Metaphor, Literal and Factual?**
  - Interpreting vs. misinterpreting
    - Alliteration, metaphor, simile, figures of speech, illustrations, parables, etc., while possibly having some foot in literal fact, serve as a primary learning tool when communicating new and difficult concepts or truths.
    - Examples
      - 24:7 – *The new wine mourns*. An obvious figure of speech.
      - 24: 22 – *like prisoners in a dungeon*. “Like” defines this as a figure of speech.
      - 24: 19 – *The earth is broken asunder, split through, shaken violently*. Though obviously metaphor, it assumes some literal truth.
  - **The Judgment Scenario**
    - 24:1-4. **Literal:** the earth is laid waste, its surface distorted, its inhabitants are scattered and social order is reversed.
      - **Allegorical:** The fabric of society and civilization are imperiled.
    - 24:5-6. **Literal:** The earth is polluted morally and ethically. Therefore a curse devours the earth, the inhabitants are burned and few are left.
      - **Allegorical:** could reference several periods of judgment.
    - 24:7-13. **Literal:** the new wine mourns, the gaiety of musical instruments ceases, the “city of chaos” is broken down.
      - **Allegorical:** The festivity and celebration of excess ceases.
    - 24:14-17. **Literal:** God is praised, “they” shout for joy, but the prophet says “woe,” for treachery still abounds.

- **Allegorical:** the power of God is suddenly apparent, and the world tries to appease him with praise.
- 24:18-20. **Literal:** the foundations of the earth shake, and it reacts violently.
  - **Allegorical:** considering that this much catastrophic violence would kill all life on earth, a possible reference is to the geopolitical structure, or social order.
- **21-23: Literal:** all heavenly and earthly powers are disestablished, and God alone reigns.
  - **Allegorical:** signifies the final glorification of God.
- **The Sociological and Historical context** (Why? II Tim. 2:15)
  - **The first movement: The Winds of Change.**
    - The appearance of freedom: \_\_\_\_\_.
    - The result is anarchy: \_\_\_\_\_.
  - **The second movement: Even Chaos becomes Chaotic.**
    - The desired reversal of order becomes repetitive. \_\_\_\_\_.
    - Each successive change becomes more chaotic. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - **The finale: Freedom brings the Curse.**
    - Things do not return to normal: \_\_\_\_\_.
    - No more “hurricane parties:” \_\_\_\_\_.
    - The price: “pollution” is irreversible. \_\_\_\_\_.
    - Rapid results: worldwide communication of disaster results in despair and hopelessness. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - **The Postscript: God assumes control.**
    - **The narrow historical implication:** \_\_\_\_\_.
    - **The broader implication:** \_\_\_\_\_.

*To a Christian the true tragedy of Nero must not be that he fiddled while [Rome burned] but that he fiddled on the brink of hell.*

*C.S. Lewis, The Weight of Glory*

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