

## More Endtime Earthquake Rumbles

Wilfred Hahn

(Excerpted from October 2011, Eternal Value Review)

*Our recent two-part article, [Endtime Earthquakes, Pestilences, Famines & Disasters: When?](#) received interested correspondence from quite a number of readers. Earthquakes are a popular topic! Even the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) which operates the National Earthquake Information Centre (NEIC), states that they receive a very high number of inquiries on the question of whether the frequency of earthquakes are rising.*

*Thank you to all respondents for their insights ... and, incidentally, also a “heads up” on recent statistics that we had not yet reviewed. Readers interested in the topic of endtime earthquakes may wish to review the graphs that analyze earthquake trends, shown at the end of this document.*

*A number of recurring points were made by respondents. As such, instead of writing many individualized responses (which we would like to do if time permitted), may we reply with a broader synthesis. We hope it will address all of the major issues raised in the individual letters received. Several sample replies from readers are reproduced here, then followed by our response.*

**READER:** [Re: [Endtime Earthquakes, Pestilences, Famines & Disasters: When?](#) viewed on [www.RaptureReady.com](http://www.RaptureReady.com).] Sir, I disagree with your conclusions in these articles that you have posted. I even say that only a blind person would not notice the increase in earthquakes, natural disasters and even famines/pestilences that have been happening leading up to this current year. Let's get to the essential heart of the matter why I disagree. If you are a pre-tribulation believer and believe in the Rapture, how then can you state that the “beginning of sorrows” is during the beginning of the 7-year tribulation period? Unless that is you do not believe in a Rapture before the Tribulation. One wonders where your stance on this truly is after reviewing your views on when exactly the Tribulation is supposed to start and how you put the timing of the “earthquakes in various places” as being in the beginning of the Tribulation. For did Jesus Christ not say that we were to “Look up when these things begin to take place”? That means these signs will signal to us that the Rapture is near, that our redemption is near. If you believe in the pre-tribulation Rapture, how is it that you place this time within the Tribulation period? —**P.S.**

**READER:** I really enjoyed your articles on the subject [of earthquakes] posted to [www.RaptureReady.com](http://www.RaptureReady.com). But there are a couple of things I wonder if you've taken into consideration; Daniel 12:4 and “perception.” While I can't or won't dispute your statistics about the number and frequency of the above disasters and I'm certain they will indeed, increase in frequency in the near future, consider that Jesus may have been shooting for “perception” in his answer to the disciples regarding the end-times events/signs. With the increase in knowledge (Daniel 12:4) we now have news of all sorts in real time. This ability, and the rapidity to which we witness these events should have the world on its collective knees praying to God for forgiveness and glorifying Him but, they're not. So, the “perception” isn't working. I don't doubt for one minute that God won't increase these events in the near term, but does He need to if we would perceive that they are increasing? If the world won't wake up and seek His guidance, then of course, according

to the Bible, He will indeed, increase these events. In the meantime, I think the “perception” is a good start and I think this may have been what Jesus was shooting for when we take what was told to Daniel in 12:4 into consideration. — **C.D.**

**READER:** With much interest I read your 2-part article about signs of the end-times, — especially the part about earthquakes on [www.RaptureReady.com](http://www.RaptureReady.com). This issue had been of my interest before I had read your article. There are a number of links on the Web which give access to databases on earthquakes. Two of them are listed here and here. I have done queries on those databases on my own and found a significant increase of earthquake activity on this planet in recent years. If you take earthquakes of magnitudes greater than or equal to 6 — being quakes which have destructive force — they went up from one per [every] 3.5 days to almost one per day since the turn of the millennium. During this time period the technologies to track quakes have not improved significantly. So this increase is not because of better reporting ... etc. I found my observation corroborated by research other people have done. As of March 15th, 2011 this data was published on Joel’s Trumpet: United States Geological Survey 1980 to 2000: 255 earthquakes 7.0 or higher (USGS / NEIC) (One every 28 days); 2000 to 2008: 127 earthquakes 7.0 or higher (USGS / NEIC) (One every 26 days); 2009: 17 earthquakes 7.0 or higher (USGS / NEIC) (One every 21 days); 2010: 20 earthquakes 7.0 or higher (USGS / NEIC) (One every 18 days); 2011: 6 earthquakes 7.0 or higher in 3 months (USGS / NEIC) (One every 15 days). Even if you omit the (not yet finished) year 2011 the increase is significant. I am aware that there is an attempt by the power elite to deny or play down this fact. Nonetheless the numbers speak for themselves. With kind regards. — **E.C.**

**EVR:** Thank you for the arguments and thoughts we have received in response to the 2-part series entitled [Endtime Earthquakes, Pestilences, Famines & Disasters: When?](#) As mentioned, we received interested correspondence from quite a number of readers, most of them in disagreement with one or more of the perspectives we expressed in the original articles.

Two main areas of contention were raised by readers — the theological interpretation of the Olivet Discourse (OD) (Matthew 24, Luke 21 and Mark 13) and the statistical examination of the available earthquake data.

Let’s deal with the theological and eschatological perspectives first. But let’s first realize what we are dealing with. The Olivet Discourse is a section of Scripture that has met broad and heated debate for centuries. In fact, it has been ferociously debated since the time that it was uttered. Even the disciples were puzzled at that time. It goes without saying, therefore, that there are a broad range of views ... in fact, even amongst scholars who take a Pre-tribulational view. As such, the matter of the timing of endtime earthquakes is fair game for open discussion. And, as we pointed out in our article series, there happen to be two different sets of earthquakes mentioned in prophetic Scripture.

Much of the stated debate we received from readers stemmed from the priori positions on two key questions (amongst a number of other perspectives). These are as follows: Firstly, just who was the intended audience of the Olivet Discourse (OD)? Many respondents take the perspective that Christ was speaking directly and specifically to the Church. Secondly, does the Bible give signs for the Rapture or not? On this latter point, we believe that the answer is “no.” Some respondents were reading the Olivet’s signs as preceding the Rapture. While Christians are indeed encouraged to recognize the “season” of the last days — the “signs of the times” (Matthew 16:2) — this in no way has

any bearing on the Rapture. No where in Scripture can it be proven that certain signs must precede the Rapture.

As it is, whatever the definition, “seasons” are not supposed to impact our fervor for Christ in any case. As said Paul, “Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction” (2 Timothy 4:2). Whether there are signs or not, it shouldn’t change our state of readiness for the Rapture. As such, no signs are needed nor are any given in our opinion. The Rapture remains imminent (also meaning that there are no conditions or signs that must precede it).

Let’s next deal with the most hotly contested question of all, the issue of Christ’s intended audience in the OD. We take the position that the Olivet Discourse was primarily spoken to the Jews. This does not mean that Christ’s statements have no application to Christians. Far from it. After all, “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

However, consider the time point of the Olivet address. There was yet no Crucifixion, no Resurrection, and, crucially, no Church. The “mystery” was still hidden. Much later, after Christ had already ascended, says Paul, the “mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations[...] is now disclosed to the saints” (Colossians 1:26). The “mystery of Christ” (Colossians 2:2, 4:3) had not been revealed at the time of the Olivet Discourse. Moreover, the baptism of the Holy Spirit had not yet occurred.

How is it then possible that Christ, who at the time of the Olivet Discourse was still engaged in preaching to the lost sheep of Israel (“I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel” Matthew 15:24), could be speaking directly to the Church? The gospel — as well as blessing and punishments — were to the “Jew first.” (See Romans 1:16, 2:9-10.) As such, the most fitting conclusion is that Christ is primarily speaking to the Jews, whether yet “believers” in Christ as the Messiah, or not. This explains why Christ can say all-conclusively that “When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near” (Matthew 24:28). This applies to the Tribulation remnant of the Jews. Christians are already redeemed at the point of their believing and repentance. They do not need to be redeemed a second time. Very definitely then, all “these things” mentioned in the OD will occur to Jews and not pre-Tribulational Christians.

To conclude otherwise is to argue that the Rapture is not pre-tribulational and that Christians will indeed enter into the time of God’s wrath, this being the Tribulation. Why? Consider some of the events that are said to occur before “your redemption is drawing nigh” (Matthew 24:28), that being after “all these things” (verse 34) have occurred.

Just when is it that “armies” (plural) will be surrounding Israel? No, this event did not occur in the first century (66 to 70 A.D.) when Jerusalem was progressively sacked by the Roman army. That was just one nation’s army (singular). Just when do such apocalyptic events as these occur? “[...] signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken” (Matthew 24:25-26). This is apocalyptic language in the New Testament that only parallels events given in the Book of Revelation occurring after the 5<sup>th</sup> seal. Very definitely, the time envisioned here is the Tribulation ... therefore, certainly not any time before the Rapture. These types of events (these being some of the signs mentioned in the OD) all occur in the Tribulation period, that being after the Rapture and

therefore after today's Church has been removed. The redemption mentioned by Christ in this passage is the redemption of the Jews and the nation of Israel. That occurs only after they recognize and accept their Messiah. A number of the Old Testament prophets speak of the eventual "redeeming" of Jacob.

Before we proceed to consider other points made by readers, let's first attempt to agree on these statements: We cannot at all prove that any of the events and signs mentioned in the OD take place before the Rapture. Yes, most definitely, not all of the signs mentioned occur in the Tribulation. Our position is that some signs do and some don't. In fact, we are publishing an article on the two signs that do precede the Tribulation according to our interpretation of the OD — "the hearing of wars and rumors of wars" and the appearance of "false christs" (or Messiahs). A question to interject here, since it relates to the question of the intended audience of the OD, is why Christ did not raise the issue of rising apostasy ... rather only the increase of false messiahs? Apostasy, after all, is one of the very few (perhaps only) last-day signs given to the Church. (See Thomas Ice article that presents 7 verses on this issue — Timothy 4:1-3; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; 4:3-4; James 5:1-8; 2 Peter 2:1-22; 3:3-6; Jude 1-25.)

Next, let's discuss the statistics that are available on the matter of earthquake incidence. Having reviewed the statistics at the time of our original research for the article series, we concluded that the incidence of earth quakes "was probably not" rising. Why did we say "probably not" rather than "definitely not?" Because, the statistical sampling and analysis could not allow a 100% conclusive answer.

In order to make a firm assertion, one must be able to prove a "statistically valid" conclusion. We received suggestions that one would have to be blind to not see that pestilences and earthquakes are increasing today. In response, we would say to those that might not be blinded to the sure reality that earthquakes and pestilences are today indeed increasing, that they should at least be able to offer — and "with great patience and careful instruction" (2 Timothy 4:2) — solid evidence to support their view. After all, this would be of benefit to all. Yet, we did not receive one statistically-derived nor yet statistically-valid refutation of our statement on pestilences and earthquakes. Only one respondent of the many that replied, produced a perspective based on statistics which challenged our conclusion on the increasing incidence on earthquakes. (We, too, love it when that happens!).

Let's then turn to the interpretational world of "statistics." Most everyone will recall the quip of Mark Twain: "There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies, and statistics." It contains a valid caution. Statistics can conceal more than they reveal and are often used for misdirection. However, scientifically applied and properly interpreted, they are indeed useful. Therefore, again, let's proceed with care. The one reader who replied with a response based on factual statistics sent us a report produced by Joel's Trumpet. Accessing the most recent official NEIC database, we were not able to replicate the same conclusions as Joel's Trumpet. It is possible that the USGS may have revised its database in the interim. However, we discovered errors in the analysis that would require us to invalidate its conclusions. Slicing and dicing through the NEIC data ourselves again, we indeed observed some identifiable trends and occasional blips in the data. But try as we might, we cannot confirm (beyond any doubt) that the incidence of earthquakes is rising. The only earthquake categories that are showing a persistent trend of increase are those in the magnitude range of 5.0 to 6.0 (Richter Scale) and 6.0 to 6.5. Why should it only be the lower magnitude classes of earthquakes that are increasing and not the higher intensity earthquakes? We cannot confirm the answer, but suspect it has to do with a higher statistical capture of earthquake activity as more

sensors and collection systems are installed around the world. A corroborating factor supporting our conclusion is that the average magnitude of all earthquakes over the entire review period of 1973 to 2011 (also, all those over 6.0 in magnitude) has actually been decreasing. And, as it may be, we can make no valid statistical case that earthquakes of a higher magnitude have shown an increasing trend. (Readers are invited to review the data themselves. We produce a series of charts describing our examination of this data on page 5 of the October issue of *Eternal Value Review*.)

The USGS still maintains the opinion that the incidence of earthquakes has not increased. However, we note that the last time this view was updated on their website was in October of 2009. Will they ever change this opinion? Likely not anytime soon, according to our analysis of the data. Whatever the case, the data certainly warrants frequent monitoring. On our part, we will be monitoring the NEIC data more frequently going forward.

The data as of yet could not (nor should not) have any implications for the eschatological interpretations of the OD. But could it be that at some point the Lord will allow the subtle beginnings of a rising trend in high-intensity earthquakes before the Tribulation? Could this be a rewarding early sign for attentive Christians that the Tribulation is very near? That could very well be the case. There are likely to be other phenomenon that occur in the Tribulation period that find their low-lying "foot hills" and the genesis of their increasing trend prior to the Tribulation period. But if so, this would not qualify as the final "fulfillment" of the specific prophecies mentioned in the Bible. In any case, with respect to earthquakes, there is no sufficient supporting statistical evidence. Then what about the perspective that it is more the impact of "perception" than actual earthquake occurrence that Jesus was prophesying? We don't find this argument compelling. To conclude that a "perception" of a significant increase in earthquakes is sufficient "fulfillment" of the related OD prophecy, would subject prophecy to the foggy realm of subjective interpretation. In the past, God has clearly shown that when He does fulfill the prophecies that He has forspoken, that such outcomes are not open to subjective debate. He insists that mankind know the identify of the Author of all prophecy. ("The testimony of prophecy is the spirit of Jesus" - Revelation 19:10). Bible prophecies always clearly prove who He is ... that He is the God of the Impossible.

One final topic to deal with is the Rapture, as so many respondents seemed convinced that there are signs given for the Rapture. Just where does it fit into the OD? Some scholars do indeed see the Rapture in this Scripture. This is a position that we would not disagree with. However, the key point to recognize is that the matter of the "timing" of the Rapture is not dealt with in this passage. Why would Christ mention it specifically here when he is not talking to the Church exclusively? The signs mentioned in no way can be referenced to the Rapture other than to those signs which are said to occur pre-tribulation. Today, in this late-stage "endtime" era, we can indeed conclude that the Rapture did not occur before the occurrence of the pre-tribulational signs of "rumours of war" and eruptions of many "false christs." But that is a result of the privileged position that our generation enjoys. We are allowed greater understanding because we already can witness prophecies being fulfilled. However, those Bible readers who lived in prior generations could not have concluded from Scripture alone that the Rapture would not occur before any of the Olivet signs became evident.

There are no signs given for the Rapture. It remains a signless event. While this statement may rankle modern-day Christians, this statement in no way argues for a post-tribulational view. We would reject that interpretation. The general emphasis of the New Testament is that we are to look "for his coming," "to wait for his Son from heaven"

(1 Thessalonians 1:10) and that his Second Coming and the Rapture were imminent — meaning, possibly occurring at any time. The interpretations we have taken in regards to the timing of various events and phenomena mentioned by Christ in the OD are not at all inconsistent with a pre-tribulation Rapture view. In fact, we have proven that the positions taken by many of our dear responding readers are inconsistent with a pre-tribulation Rapture. We do believe that the Bible teaches a pre-tribulation Rapture and firmly do hold to this position. Of course, by extension, that would also mean that we do not believe that we today are yet witnessing any specific events that are prophesied to occur within the Tribulation. These are yet to come .... and the Rapture before.

Herewith, one final comment: We live in an age where there is more information available than ever before in the history of mankind. It also is more widely accessible than ever before. Taking a dispensationalist perspective, I believe that this is for a reason. As the “end of the ages” approaches, this ensures that no one can claim special ignorance of the facts of truth, as well as general prophetic fulfillment. In other words, there will be no legitimate excuse for “blindness.”

Bible prophecy was given to mankind to “shine a light unto a dark place” (2 Peter 1:19) and most importantly, as a challenge to all other claimed gods. “Tell us what the future holds, so we may know that you are gods” (Isaiah 41:23). Only one God could risk the potential bluff of claiming to know the end from the beginning. Unfortunately, the great gift to mankind of prophecy has been largely discredited. Why? Because so many claimed Christians make unreasoned and unprovable speculations; go far beyond what Scripture actually says, thus prophesying themselves about the future; and even sometime attempting to fulfill prophecy themselves, not allowing God to do so in his own intended time. We do a big disservice to the reputation of Christianity when we take positions on matters that non-believers can easily disprove with facts. Apostle Paul implores with these words: “Do not go beyond what is written” (1 Corinthians 4:6).

**READER:** I would like to thank you for providing such a well thought out and informative study that was featured on [www.RaptureReady.com](http://www.RaptureReady.com). The article entitled End time Earthquakes, Pestilences, Famines & Disasters: When? challenged my current beliefs, and to be honest, I love that when that happens. Iron sharpens iron after all. However, when it comes to your case on earthquakes, I believe you are missing a very important point. I won't dispute the fact that earthquakes are not on the increase, nor will I argue the fact that there are today 23 times the amount of monitoring stations. So what's my conundrum you ask? In Isaiah 46:10 it says: *“I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, ‘My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.’ God knew technology would increase, and therefore make things easier to be noticed by those who are watching. We can also read that the Bible reiterates this very concept in Daniel 12:4 (NIV). But you, Daniel, roll up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge.”* It is safe to say that from 1931 to 2011 our (humanity in general) *knowledge has increased exponentially*. Thanks to advances in technology, we can now monitor this planet like never before. Additionally, in the last century alone, man has learned to fly and right now, anyone can be transported to *anywhere around the globe* with 24-48 hours. I believe that the rapid technology increase has afforded believers around the world an early warning device for those that watch, something to increase our sense of urgency when it comes to sharing the love of our Savior, Jesus Christ. I am sure you have read this Scripture on Rapture Ready, but Revelation 3:3 (NIV) declares: *“Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.”*

Every time a disaster such as an earthquake happens, a door has been opened, and with current and project technology, is not this 'door' opening even more? God Bless you, and your work.—**T.F.**

**EVR:** Thank you for your thoughts. I agree with your observation that Christians living today should be able to much better understand matters relating to the endtimes. However, the quote from Daniel ("*Many will go here and there to increase knowledge*" - Daniel 12:4.) *has been popularly misinterpreted. Most recently, we commented on this issue in the article Newly Revealed: Bible Leaks. In reply, we excerpt a section from this article and reproduce it here. Again, thank you for your thoughtful comments.*

*Excerpt from Newly Revealed: Bible Leaks :[...] there is one group of people who will some day respond to a significant "Bible leak." The Jewish people will again respond to the "knowledge" of the Scriptures. Rather than knowledge of information, the knowledge spoken of in the Bible refers to knowledge of eternal significance. It is the knowledge of God and His purposes. While an increase in information—trivia, distractions and cares of this world—appears to be in alignment with last day trends and developments, it coincides with a soaring boom in ignorance of what the Bible calls knowledge. In the book of Daniel, we read: "But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge" (Daniel 12:4). A popular interpretation of this verse is that not only will knowledge (i.e. information and data) increase in the world, but also travel. While this may not be a harmful interpretation, for a number of reasons, it is not likely that this text refers to such phenomena at all. As it was, Daniel's prophecies are concerned with the Jewish people and their future. Just as Hosea 4:6 ("My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge") is expressly spoken to the Jews, so is Daniel's prophecy of an increase of knowledge. The word knowledge here does not refer to technical and scientific information, but rather to the knowing of God's plan and His laws. The prophets had often castigated the Hebrews for their lack of knowledge. "Israel's watchmen are blind, they all lack knowledge" said Isaiah (56:10). Hosea confirms that the knowledge lacked refers to the ignorance of God and His Laws. "Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children" (Hosea 4:6). In Biblical terms, the word "knowledge" is more aptly defined as the "act of knowing." In this sense, it is not knowledge that increases, but rather the knowing of it. For this and other reasons, we are safer to interpret this passage as referring to an increase in understanding of historical prophecy and Scripture, not an increase of information. During the last days, the Jewish people will again come to an increasing understanding of their destiny and purpose. Finally, at the end of the Great Tribulation, a remnant will receive a full understanding. "Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding. In those days, when your numbers have increased greatly in the land, declares the LORD [...]" (Jeremiah 3:15-16). The full content and revelation of the Bible will be "leaked" ... in other words, rediscovered and revealed in the light of truth.*

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largest global investment operation, his writings focus on the endtime roles of money, economics and globalization. He has been quoted around the world and his writings reproduced in numerous other publications and languages. His 2002 book The Endtime Money Snare: How to live free accurately anticipated and prepared its readers for the Global Financial Crisis. His newest book, Global Financial Apocalypse Prophesied: Preserving true riches in an age of deception and trouble, looks further into the future.

# Signs of the Times



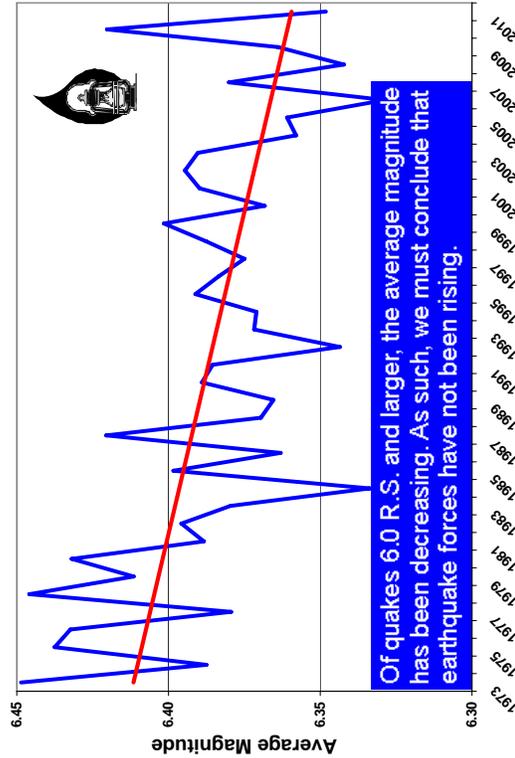
## Earthquakes: What Does the Data Say?

To this point, the data does not support a blanket assertion that the frequency of earthquakes is rising. If anything, it is the reporting on smaller

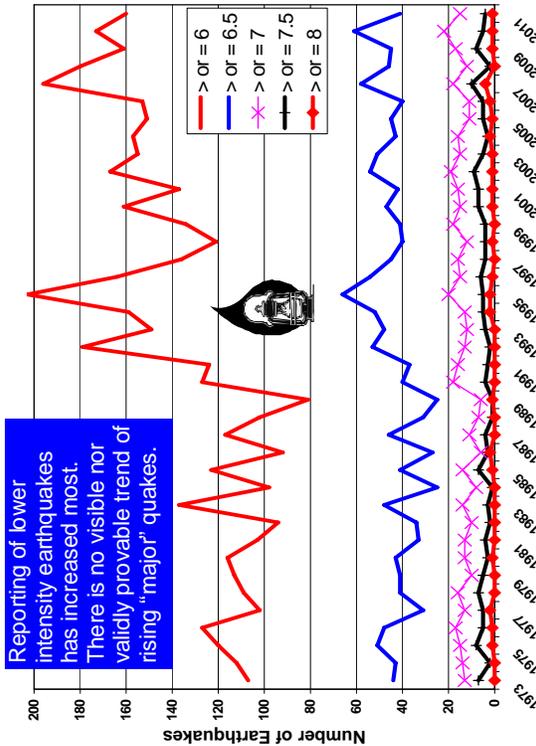
earthquakes that is increasing. But what about earthquakes greater than 6.5 or 7.0 in magnitude (Richter Scale)? Aren't they increasing? In very recent years a slight increase has been observed, but not extending to those of 7.5 or greater. The most convincing evidence of all is that the average magnitude of all quakes of 6.0 or higher has actually declined! (See *Letters to the Editor* for more information on page 6.) (All data from USGS NEIC.)

**EVR**

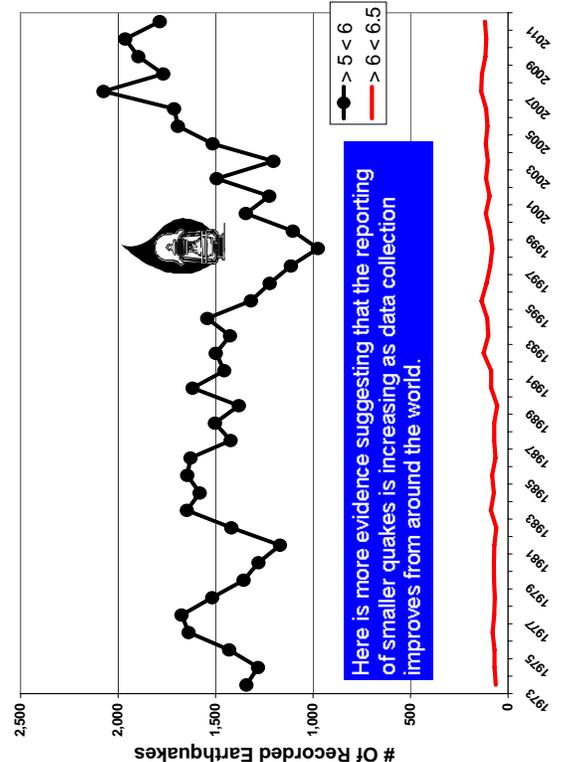
Average Magnitude Rating (All Earthquakes of 6.0 Richter Scale and Above)



Total Number of Earthquakes by Magnitude Range (Richter Scale, 6 and greater)



Rise in Frequency Mostly Due to Reporting of Smaller Earthquakes (1973 to Aug. 30, 2011)



Share of Earthquakes By Magnitude Range (Richter Scale of 6.0 and more, % of Total)

