Major Earthquakes Can Trigger Faraway 'Slow-Slip' Events

Study shows areas can be affected by mysterious temblors even a long distance away

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A note from Pastor Kevin Lea follows this article.

Major earthquakes might set off incredibly slow earthquakes thousands of miles away, new research suggests.

These findings, detailed online Sept. 11 in the Journal of Geophysical Research-Solid Earth, shed light on how earthquake zones might communicate with each other over large distances, scientists added.

The cluster of devastating earthquakes that rocked the globe during the past decade from Japan to Sumatra to Haiti is one reason why scientists are investigating whether temblors in different parts of the world are linked to one another. Although research to date suggests that major quakes aren't likely to trigger other massive quakes around the globe, they can set off tremors worldwide.

Now researchers find that large quakes might also trigger mysterious slow earthquakes thousands of miles away. One kind of slow earthquake known as a slow-slip event can last for weeks, shifting the Earth as much as an ordinary earthquake of magnitude of 7 would in mere moments.

The investigators focused on the magnitude 8.8 Maule earthquake that struck Chile in 2010. They found it generated surface waves that, within hours, set off tremors in the Guerrero region of southwestern Mexico 4,140 miles (6,660 kilometers) away. Data from GPS stations also revealed the earth there began moving southward at the same time tremors there began.

The tremors and movements of the GPS stations lasted for about six months after the 2010 Chile quake. "Such an observation may indicate …"

> *To read this article in its entirety, go to:*
> *http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/49983211/ns/technology_and_science-science/#.ULZfj2cutX8*

***Note from Pastor Kevin Lea**: Noticeably absent from this article is any explanation of **how** earthquake zones can interact over long distances – or the seismologists' admission that only a few years ago, they would have said that such interrelationships were impossible.*

For decades, the seismologists have been trying to make observed data fit the evolutionary model that earthquakes result from stresses built up over millions-of-years of slow movement between crustal plates. However, as data accumulates, they find that many do not fit nicely into this paradigm. Before newer, more sensitive instruments proved them wrong, scientists maintained that an earthquake in one area of the world could not (and did not) affect faults and movement in other parts of the world, especially thousands of miles away. This stance has been changing over the years as the data pours in.

For example, they now admit that the 7.9 Denali Earthquake in Alaska on November 3 of 2002 affected the intensity and frequency of geysers in Yellowstone Park, caused unusual "sloshing" in Seattle's Lake Union and Louisiana's Lake Pontchartrain, and changed the depth of wells on the East Coast. Even when they did conclude that these events were related to the Alaska quake, they did not provide a scientifically sound mechanism for these effects, and they likely never will as long as they hold on to their evolutionary plate tectonic mindset.

In February of 2012, I asked geophysicist and seismologist Dr. Steve Malone the following question,

> *"Based on what we know about plate tectonics, is it possible that all major faults around the earth would rupture at the same time causing a global earthquake?"*

Dr. Malone's answer:

> *"There are a number of reasons why we don't think this is a possibility, including: The world's faults, including the circum-pacific seismic belt* [Pacific Ring of Fire], *are not contiguous at a scale where they can rip one to another. The stress distribution that could cause anything like this is never uniform enough to cause all or even many faults to go at the same time. We think about M_w=9.5 is about as big as an event can get; plenty big enough."*

*But the Bible says that someday the earth **will** experience a global earthquake (Revelation 6, 16, and Isaiah 24, for example). If the current evolutionary frame of reference doesn't allow for a global fracturing of the Earth, the observed data contradicts long held beliefs of seismologists, and the Bible says there **will** be a global earthquake, then there is strong reason to discard the current paradigm and find another that fits the data **and** the Bible.*

There is *an alternative theory that does explain the interrelation between crustal movements, earthquakes, volcanoes and how these can, have, and will affect earthquakes in other areas of the world. It also explains why the earth will someday experience a global earthquake. This new frame of reference is based on Dr. Walt Brown's Hydroplate Theory explanation for the flood of Noah.*

I have produced two videos that provide a detailed and scientifically based explanation for these interrelations. You can watch them on YouTube or order the series in DVD format by going to Creationscience.com where you can purchase them from Dr. Brown's website for $20. To watch on YouTube: go to calvarypo.org, click on the YouTube icon and then click on the Earthquakes 2012 Update (one segment about 1.5 hours long). The 2012 Update explains why the March 11, 2011 Japan earthquake was so severe and why the ionosphere was perturbed shortly before the quake struck. You can also watch the 2010 version on YouTube which is posted as Part 1 (six ten-minute segments) and Part 2 (also six ten-minute segments).