

THE UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
**I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God
IN CHRIST JESUS.***
(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

#06-1201

2012: Who has Stood in the Council of the Lord?

January 1, 2012

(16) Thus says the LORD of hosts, "**Do not listen** to the words of the prophets who are prophesying to you. They are leading you into futility; they speak **a vision of their own imagination, not from the mouth of the LORD.** (17) "**They keep saying** to those who despise Me, 'The LORD has said, "**You will have peace**"; and as for everyone who walks in the **stubbornness of his own heart**, they say, '**Calamity will not come upon you.**' (18) "**But who has stood in the council of the LORD, that he should see and hear His word? Who has given heed to His word and listened?** (19) "Behold, the storm of the LORD has gone forth in wrath, even a whirling tempest; it will swirl down on the head of the wicked. (20) "The anger of the LORD will not turn back until He has performed and carried out the purposes of His heart; **in the last days** you will clearly understand it. (Jeremiah 23:16-20 NASB)

Each year I ask the Lord for a word for the year, and He has faithfully given me one; at times, He has even given me two words. This year is no different, for there are two words that He has put on my heart for 2012. This issue and the next cover the first word; the second word follows.

As an introduction to what the Lord has laid upon my heart, I have come to realize that the Lord has gifted the members of His body in a variety of ways. Some are gifted to see the positives that are happening in the body of Christ and others are gifted to be the watchmen who are continually sounding the danger alarm or at least the cautionary alarm that things may not be as they seem and we need to be watchful. It is the Lord's way of keeping us in balance with Him and not veering off solely in one direction.

I fall within this last group, at least part of the time, not all of the time. In fact, I have a third word, which is one of encouragement that perhaps is the Lord's third word for the year. This will be shared in a separate issue.

Now, this leads to the above verses, in particular, to verse 18, which is the specific word given to me by the Lord: "**But who has stood in the council of the LORD, that he should see and hear His word? Who has given heed to His word and listened?**

The first thing to note is that the Lord asked a question through Jeremiah that deals with seeing and hearing and heeding His word. But the key to this verse is in the first part of the question: Who has stood in the council of the Lord?

Some background is in order. Jeremiah was raised up during the period when the houses of Israel and Judah had grossly and profanely turned from the Lord. As you may recall, Solomon's United Kingdom of Israel was split into two kingdoms, Judah (holder of the scepter, representative of the King) and Israel (holder of the birthright, representative of the Kingdom), because Solomon's heart had turned from the Lord (1 Kings 11:9-11). Over 300 years later, Jeremiah was raised up to speak to Judah as they were about to enter into an iron-yoke judgment in 604 BC at the hands of the Babylonians. Israel had already entered into their iron-yoke judgment in 745-721 BC at the hands of the Assyrians.

Jeremiah 23 speaks encouragement and warning. The encouragement was the fact that God was going to raise up for David **a righteous Branch**, namely, the Lord Jesus, "**the Lord our righteousness,**" as well as shepherds to tend His flock. God's Branch will reign as king and act wisely and do justice and righteousness. Praise God!

However, most of the chapter is directed to the many false prophets that had arisen in both Israel and Judah. The land had become full of adulterers who were walking in falsehood. Even the prophets and the priests had become polluted. The prophets were accused of speaking "a vision of their own imagination, not from the mouth of the Lord." They were saying "Peace" and "Calamity will not come upon you." It is in this context that the question was asked.

Apart from Jeremiah and like-minded prophets, there was no one among the so-called prophets that was standing in the council of the Lord to see, hear, and heed His word. Simply, no one was standing in the council of the Lord to receive and know His word. If they had, they would have known their true condition before the Lord instead of living according to the lie that they were God's chosen and could get away with all sorts of abominations and the Lord would not see it or care about it.

This raises the question: What does this have to do with us today? Surely, the Lord's people are not worshipping Baal as ancient Israel did. Further, we are living in the day which was spoken of through the prophets that the Lord's people would prophesy and be given visions and dreams (Acts 2:17). Yet even further, one could argue that the world and the church are being bombarded with God's word through all sorts of media. In fact, there seems to be no lack for the word of the Lord going forth to believers and unbelievers. To be clear, there is much good in all of this, as well as some bad.

However, this is not the heart of the question posed in Jeremiah 23:18. It is not simply referring to speaking forth the written word of God known to us as the Bible or relaying dreams and visions, which, by the way, can be susceptible to all sorts of subjectivity, even deception. It is speaking to the very heart of the Lord. What is on His heart for this very day and hour? What is His council to us today?

This leads to the word *council* or *counsel*, which comes from the Hebrew word *sod*. According to Strong's Concordance, *sod* (H5475) refers to "a session, that is, company of persons (in close deliberation); by implication intimacy, consultation, a secret." *Sod* comes from the primitive root word *yasad* (H3245), which means "to set (literally or figuratively); intensively to found; reflexively to sit down together, that is, settle, consult." Interestingly, Webster's English Dictionary states that an archaic meaning is "wisdom; shrewd judgment," and an obsolete meaning is "a confidential idea, plan; a secret."

In light of Jeremiah, the implication is that one is drawn into **intimacy** with the Lord to know the secrets of His heart, to know His plan, to receive His wisdom, His thoughts, His judgment of things on earth. It implies coming into the secret chamber of the Lord's heart. Mind you, this is not an exclusive invitation as if it were only for a few select people of God. In his discourse with his friends, Job was questioned by Eliphaz on this very ground: **"Do you hear the secret counsel [sod] of God, and limit wisdom to yourself?** (Job 15:8). No; this is for all who desire to hear His voice (word) and to heed it. **"The secret of the LORD is for those who fear Him, and He will make them know His covenant"** (Psalm 25:14).

We all need to be drawn into intimacy with the Lord to hear the voice of the love of our life and to share His life and His thoughts with others. In contrast, given the evil of our day, we need hearts that cry out like David: **"Hide me from the secret counsel [sod] of evildoers, from the tumult of those who do iniquity"** (Psalm 64:2).

As I have meditated on this word, I have concluded that our day is not much different from Jeremiah's day. We are surrounded by many false prophets, both in the world and in the church. In the world, there are a countless number of false prophets; ones I would call **media prophets** that peddle their so-called "expert opinions, analyses, and predictions" through the many media outlets of our day. Just as Babylon was overrun by the Medes, so are we being overrun by the Media (play on words). In the church, there are so many voices purportedly speaking for the Lord, often speaking contrary to one another, but all claiming they are in conformance with the word of God, that it leaves one's head spinning. We are in captivity to Mystery Babylon and truly living in the day of Babel; that is, it is the day of confusion.

This brings us back to the word for 2012: **"But who has stood in the council of the LORD, that he should see and hear His word?"**

Dear beloved, I encourage you to seek with all your heart to stand in the council of the Lord.

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(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

#06-1202

2012: His Council Speaks of the Restoration of All Things

January 1, 2012

(18) **"But who has stood in the council of the LORD, that he should see and hear His word? Who has given heed to His word and listened?"** (19) "Behold, the storm of the LORD has gone forth in wrath, even a whirling tempest; it will swirl down on the head of the wicked. (20) "The anger of the LORD will not turn back until He has performed and carried out **the purposes of His heart; in the last days** you will clearly understand it. (Jeremiah 23:18-20 NASB)

As introduced in the first issue of the New Year, it seems that the Holy Spirit is asking a question of God's people. Who? Who is standing in the council of the Lord? But, it also seems that this is more than a question; it is an invitation to enter into the council of the Lord or, as shown in the previous issue, to come into intimacy with the Lord to hear the secrets of His heart for this day and hour. Another way of stating this is that it is about abiding in Christ, that is, making home in Him, having a heart-to-heart relationship with a hearing ear that leads to obedience.

With so many voices speaking for God in our day and so many other voices trying to refute and subvert God and His character, even His ways, His plan, and His purpose, it is truly a very dangerous day. We need to be reminded that the Lord Jesus, along with Peter and John, warned of false prophets as well as false teachers (Matthew 7:15; 24:11, 24; Mark 13:22; Luke 6:26; 2 Peter 2:1; 1 John 4:1). To this we could add Paul's exhortation to beware of the character of men in the last days, evil men and imposters, deceiving and being deceived (1 Timothy 4:1-3; 2 Timothy 3). However, there is something much more subtle that permeates the church in our day, and that is the **tradition of men** (Mark 7:8; Colossians 2:8) and the **systematizing of the deception** (deceitful scheming) that Paul warned about (Ephesians 4:14).

Putting all these concerns and challenges together, there should be little doubt as to the relevance of the Lord asking who is standing in His council to hear and heed His word.

Today, in America, many Christians are citing 2 Chronicles 7:13-14 as the way for God's people to bring about healing of our land. However, if we are not standing in the council of the Lord, how will we know of what we must repent? We need to know the root of the problem in order to repent, and, to know this, we must be in the council of the Lord. The problem in Jeremiah's day was many that called themselves prophets were expressing their own distorted views of their condition and not inquiring of the One who knew their heart.

Well, much exhortation could be offered on the matter of false prophets, but I have seen something in the matter of standing in His council that has to do with the word *council* in relation to God's plan and purpose. In the above, note that Jeremiah referred to **the purposes of His heart; in the last days**. The word *purposes* is more akin to the word *plans*. A *purpose* refers to an objective, and a *plan* (or, *plans*) refers to how one achieves the objective or purpose.

As shown in the last issue, the word *council* or *counsel* (depending on the translation) comes from the Hebrew word *sod*, which refers to "a *session*, that is, *company* of persons (in close deliberation); by implication *intimacy*, *consultation*, a *secret*."

Another word for *secret* is the word *mystery*. Depending on the translation, Paul wrote in several of his epistles of the secret or mystery (e.g., the mystery of the gospel, the mystery of Christ, the revelation of the mystery).

Now, I believe the meaning and gematria of the Hebrew word *sod* in itself speaks of the very secret or mystery of God. Another way to state this is that when we come into the very council of the Lord, we learn of His mystery, the mystery relating to His plan and, most importantly, His ultimate purpose. For those who might think this is unnecessary since the Bible tells of His plan and purpose, I would ask: If it is so clearly laid out in scripture, then why are there so many varying views and, frankly, so much confusion among His people today about His plan and even His ultimate purpose?

The word *sod* is comprised of three Hebrew letters, which gematrically yield the sum of 70.

Hebrew	Numeric Value	Literal Meaning	Symbolic Meaning
Daleth	4	Door	Pathway, to enter
Vav	6	Nail	"And," to add, secure, hook
Samech	60	A prop	Support, to turn

A *door* signifies a pathway or a way to go, which could signify a *plan*. A *nail* signifies that the plan is *secure*; it is nailed down, so to speak. A *prop* could have several meanings. According to Webster's Dictionary, as a noun, it could mean 1) a rigid support, as a beam, stake or pole, placed under or against a structure; 2) a person who is one of the main supports of an enterprise. As a verb, it means to support, hold up, or hold in place.

Taken together, these three Hebrew letters speak not of a thing but of the Person of our Lord Jesus. He is **the Door** (John 10:9). He who was nailed to a cross is the same One who secures the salvation of all mankind (1 Timothy 4:10). He is the entire enterprise, so to speak. He is the one who **upholds** (holds up, props up) **all things by the word of His power** (Hebrews 1:3).

This may be a stretch, but notice that *Vav* also refers to the conjunction *and*. Is Jesus not the *and* of all things, that is, is He not the Alpha *and* the Omega, the First *and* the Last, the Beginning *and* the End? Is He not the One who is *and* who was *and* who is to come?

In other words, when we come into the council of the Lord, we come into the very One who is the Word. It is more than coming into words, it is coming into the Word Himself to see and hear Him. It is about seeing Jesus and hearing His voice and abiding in Him. It is about being intimate with Him, being in His intimate Presence. It is about a face-to-face, heart-to-heart encounter with the Lord.

The plan of God is being worked out through the one Lord, Jesus Christ, **by whom are all things** (1 Corinthians 8:6). The plan of God is to **sum up or head up all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth** (Ephesians 1:10) in order to achieve the ultimate purpose of God, **so that God may be all in all, making all things new** (1 Corinthians 15:28; Revelation 21:5). This is glorious news!

This leads to one more vital meaning attached to the word *sod*. The sum total of the three Hebrew letters is the number 70. The last issue of 2011 was purposely written on the number 70, which refers to the **Restoration of All Things**. In other words, the council of the Lord speaks of the very plan of God to restore all things to Himself.

Please note that I did not state that this is the purpose of God, for it is not. The restoration of all things is in the plan of God, but it is not the endpoint or the ultimate purpose of God. In the next age, which is variously called the Kingdom Age, the Messianic Age, the Tabernacles Age, or simply the Millennial Age, Christ, through His Body of conquerors, will begin restoring all things. This will continue for 1,000 years and into the next age until the consummation of the eons (ages) when the Son has put all things in subjection under His feet, including the last enemy of man, death. But restoration is not the endpoint; the endpoint is to make all things new, which means that when God is all in all everything is new, not simply a cleaned-up version of the old. Can you think of anything more glorious? Well, I will leave you with one more thought. *All things* refer to everything and everyone that has ever lived in God's creation, past, present, and future! All things or *ta panta* (*the all*) in Greek has no exclusions. It is 100% inclusive!

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#06-1203

**2012: What I Say to You, I Say to All.
Watch!**

January 2, 2012

(33) **Watch! Be wakeful, and pray.** For you do not know when the time is. (34) As a man going away, leaving his house, and giving his slaves authority, and to each his work (and he commanded the doorkeeper, that he **watch**), (35) then **you watch**, for you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, *at evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrowing, or early;* (36) so that he may not come suddenly *and find you sleeping.* (37) **And what I say to you, I say to all. Watch!** (Mark 13:33-37 LITV)

Each year the Lord gives me a word for the year. This year I have been given two words. One of them came on the first day of the year as I was sitting down to have some quiet time with the Lord. It was as if I did not even have to inquire; He simply spoke it.

The word came exactly as it is stated in Mark 13:37. It has been quite some time since I read this portion of scripture, so I had to look it up to be sure I heard it right. I did.

I heard: **What I say to you, I say to all. Watch!**

Frankly, this caught my attention, for the last time I was given this word in power was in the days leading up to September 11, 2001. During the months leading up to that infamous day, I was stirred in my spirit to watch, to be on the alert. In fact, on the morning of September 11, 2001, I had purposed to begin writing on the subject *Watch*. As I sat in front of my computer with the windows open and listening to the birds chirping in the tree outside my office, a friend phoned to tell me I needed to turn on the television immediately. The rest is history.

Now, as we begin the year 2012 with so many people predicting that it is going to be a challenging year, I am once again being told to watch. At this point, I have no specific details as to what is coming; but undoubtedly, great change is coming, not only in this year but in the years to come until the Kingdom comes. We can be assured that the change is leading up to the coming of the Lord to meet His people in air (not in heaven) to usher in His kingdom **when the earth experiences Your judgments and the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness** (Isaiah 26:9). After all, "watch" is associated with the Lord of the House coming at a time that we do not know; although, the time is most likely associated with the **Feast of Trumpets** (resurrection) and the **Feast of Tabernacles** (transfiguration) in some year.

Well, I have a few thoughts on the matter.

First, contrary to what many think, the world is **not** coming to an end. The Mayan calendar, Nostradamus, Edgar Cayce, or any other clairvoyant is not the last word on **the times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority** (Acts 1:7). They may have had some insight into change that will come upon the earth, but, according to God's time, this earth that we live on is not going to come to an end in some apocalyptic destruction.

"He [the God of heaven] who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men and knowledge to men of understanding. (Daniel 2:21 NASB)

Second, the glorious Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ is on the near horizon and heaven is getting ready to announce its arrival to the nations of this earth, and, for this, we need to be rejoicing, not living in fear for what is coming upon the earth. His kingdom will last for 1,000 years before a new heaven and a new earth come into view.

Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "**The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever [the eons of the eons].**" (Revelation 11:15 ESV [CV])

Third, what is about to change dramatically is the *kosmos* or the orderly arrangement by which our present, wicked age [eon] operates. In other words, **Mystery Babylon** is being crushed with the mighty stone of God, which speaks of the **Stone Kingdom** (Daniel 2:31-35). It is about man's systems and *isms* being brought to dust and replaced with the righteous and just and impartial government of God.

"Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed all at the same time and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that **not a trace of them was found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain [kingdom] and filled the whole earth.** (Daniel 2:35 NASB)

Fourth, based on past experience, I am going to be particularly tuned to hear the Lord next month. For some reason, the month of February has been a particularly active month for hearing from the Lord.

On February 27, 1995, I was told: "**When the structures crumble, testify of My kingdom.**" I began to do this in earnest when I saw the two towers (structures) of the World Trade Center *crumble* to the ground on 9/11. Exactly 15 years from the word given in 1995, on February 27, 2010, Chile experienced the 7th largest recorded quake in history up to that point. Many structures crumbled on that day. The number 7 signifies divine or spiritual perfection or completion of what is in view. On February 28, 2008, I was given a dream of a key of the kingdom and of the American people being cut loose from our present corrupt political system, which I saw as **cords of falsehood** (Isaiah 5:18, 20-21) that have been leading us around. On February 10, 2009, I heard: "**Thus saith the Lord, 'I have lifted up a hammer over the United States and I am about to strike at the heart of the nation.'**" The hammer is the word of the Lord (Jeremiah 23:29). On February 22, 2009, I was given a very clear dream of a FedEx box truck crashing to the earth and tumbling along the ground; on March 22, 2009, a FedEx air cargo plane crashed and tumbled down a runway in Tokyo, Japan. Does this indicate an economic collapse?

I have previously written on these, but the point is that we must watch and be on the alert! Just the other day, I had a dream of **small volcanoes erupting** all over a field; volcanoes could indicate disruptions or upheavals in kingdoms of this world (field). Individually, these upheavals might not seem significant, but, in the aggregate, they might be quite significant, especially as a sign of the judgment of God.

Fifth, many are looking for the so-called "rapture" to take them out of this earth as the "great escape" and leave earth as it goes into near destruction. However, rapture is not about escape from this earth; it is about **resurrection and transfiguration** into the image of Christ; it is about the Lord's conquerors commencing their reign with Him on earth and in heaven, bringing the **Kingdom of the Heavens** to earth, establishing the **Kingdom of Christ** throughout the nations so that the world learns the righteousness of God. At precisely **1:44 am** on September 26, 2008, the Lord spoke to me: "**The next great event is the resurrection.**" By the way, the number 144 signifies "the first resurrection saints."

As far as an apocalyptic destruction of the earth, do you really think God is going to destroy much of this earth, sending it back to the Stone Age with men living in caves again? Hardly! God so loves the world that He wants and has purposed to restore it. In fact, the glory of the next age will exceed anything this earth has ever seen.

"But indeed, as I live, all the earth will be filled with the glory of the LORD" (Numbers 14:21). "**For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea"** (Habakkuk 2:14 NASB).

Have you ever considered how much water covers the sea? A bunch! The whole earth will be filled with the glory of the Lord.

What I say to you, I say to all. Watch! Be encouraged!

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#06-1204

All in the Christ

January 14, 2012

I have written on this subject before; however, as I listen to what is preached in the Christian world today, I seldom hear that the heart of God's plan for the eons [ages] is for all things to be headed up in *the* Christ, things in the heavens and on the earth, so that God the Father may be all in all new.

Paul was uniquely given revelation of this great fact, which he called a secret (that is now revealed).

(8) In all wisdom and prudence (9) making known to us the secret of His will (in accord with His delight, which He purposed in Him) (10) to have an administration [plan] of the complement of the eras, to head up all in the Christ — both that in the heavens and that on the earth.... (Ephesians 1:8b-10 CV [ESV])

Other translations variously express the phrase *to head up all in the Christ* as *to gather together in one all things* (KJV), *to sum up all things in Christ* (ASV), and *to bring into one the whole in the Christ* (YLT).

In the Greek, at the heart of this expression is the Greek word *anakephalaionmai*, which is comprised of two primary words with the first meaning “up” and the second meaning “to strike on the head.” For comparison, the Greek word often used to describe Christ as the Head of the Body is *kephale*, which has a primary meaning of “seizing” with “the head being the most readily taken hold of.” Thus, *to head up* seems to be the closest in meaning to the Greek.

Clearly, the secret revealed through Paul has much to do with the Headship of Christ and not simply a gathering together. A gathering together or a summing up of all does not tell us much about the purpose for such a thing. However, heading up all things in *the* Christ tells us volumes, for it reveals that everything in the heavens and on the earth will be brought under the Headship of Christ. In other words, the Son of God will be the Head or the authority over all things. After all, He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet, and then He will abolish all rule and authority and power (1 Corinthians 15:24-25). Heading up all things is to bring all into subjection to His rule and authority and power so that in the consummation of the eons all things in the heavens and on the earth will be brought into subjection to the Kingdom of God.

But there is more, for as the Head, Christ will progressively lead all creation into the very all of God. Do not underestimate the word *all*, for it is a comprehensive word that leaves out nothing. Absolutely everything in God's creation will ultimately be brought under the Headship of Christ and be ruled by the mind of Christ.

The Weymouth Translation adds to our understanding by introducing the concept of the restoration of all things (the whole creation) and all the nations and all creation discovering their true Head.

(9) And this is in harmony with God's merciful purpose (10) for the government of the world when the times are ripe for it—the purpose which He has cherished in His own mind of restoring the whole creation to find its one Head in Christ; yes, things in Heaven and things on earth, to find their one Head in Him. (Ephesians 1:9b-10 WNT)

This leads to some questions: How will Christ head up all things? Will He do it by fiat, all at once? Will He do it by Himself? No, He will not. He will do it through His Body, the complement, and it will be done progressively throughout the oncoming eons until the very consummation of the eons. Consider the following from Paul.

(22) [God] subjects all under His feet, and gives Him, as Head over all, to the ecclesia (23) which is His body, the complement [filling up, completion] of the One completing the all in all. (Ephesians 1:22-23 CV)

(6) [God] rouses [raises] us together [the ecclesia, the body of Christ] and seats us together among the celestials [in the heavenly places], in Christ Jesus, (7) that, in the oncoming eons [ages], He should be displaying the transcendent [surpassing] riches of His grace in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:6-7 CV)

(8) To me [Paul], less than the least of all saints, was granted this grace: (9) to bring the evangel of the untraceable riches of Christ to the nations [gentiles], and to enlighten all as to what is the administration of the secret, which has been concealed from the eons [ages] in God, Who creates all, (10) that now may be made known to the sovereignties and the authorities among the celestials, through the ecclesia, the multifarious wisdom of God, (11) in accord with the purpose of the eons [ages], which He makes in Christ Jesus, our Lord.... (Ephesians 3:8-11 CV)

All these verses mean that, in God's wisdom, the Body of Christ has been chosen to be a co-worker with Christ in the heading up of *all*, not only on earth but also in the heavens or, as the above translation states, among the celestials. Paul describes the ecclesia, which is the Body of Christ, as the complement of Christ. Other translations use the word *fullness* or *completion*, meaning that the Body is the full expression of the Head. Simply, Christ's Body will be the agent through which He will complete the all in all so that God the Father may be all in all.

If you will note, some translations state that all things will be headed up in *the* Christ; that is, the article *the* is used in relation to Christ. We might pass this off as being of little significance; however, I believe it explains how God intends to head up all things. It will be done through the Head and the Body, which together is *the* Christ. Consider what Paul wrote about *the* Christ.

For, even as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of the one body, being many, are one body, so also is *the* Christ.... (1 Corinthians 12:12 YLT)

In other words, Paul defines *the* Christ as one body. You cannot have a body without a head if it is to function. Both Christ, as the Head, and the ecclesia, as His Body, are one body, called *the* Christ.

To be sure you do not miss the import of what you just read, let me paraphrase Paul's revealed secret.

In all of His wisdom, God has made known the secret of His will, which He has purposed in His Son, that in the consummation of the eons, all in the heavens and on the earth will be headed up in both the Son and His Body, which together is *the* Christ.

Can you imagine a calling any greater than this? It is tremendous! Those counted worthy to reign with Christ are destined to be *the* Christ, the very complement of the One who has been charged with completing God's plan to bring about the purpose of the eons. He will subject all things in the heavens and on the earth through His complement, His Body. For those of *the* Christ, there is work to be done in the oncoming eons. It is not a call into retirement, as so many picture it in our day; rather, it is a call into a glorious vocation with the Head of the universe. *The* Christ has been called according to God's purpose.

Our beloved Lord is on a mission for His Father, and He has called and chosen a faithful company of saints to be His complement to complete God's plan, which encompasses not only the earthly but also the celestial realm. His complement will not be restricted to this earth, for *the* Christ will reign in both the celestial and the earthly realms or, if you will, in all creation, both seen and unseen.

There is no higher calling, no greater honor than to be the complement of Christ and to be included in the great work He is doing and will continue to do in the oncoming eons until all is headed up in *the* Christ. There is only one true Head in all creation, and there will be only one true Body, *the* Christ, in which all will be headed up. May the spirit of God give you revelation of this great truth!

THE UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
**I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God
IN CHRIST JESUS.***
(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

#06-1205

Great Cataclysmic Upheaval

January 30, 2012

Over the last ten years or so I have heard many words from the Lord about impending disasters, tumults, crises, shakings, etc. To date, many of these things have come about or been confirmed or have appeared in embryonic form as preliminary warnings from the Lord who is merciful. There are some that have not happened yet, but this does not mean they will not occur. It just means that we must **transcend time**; a word the Lord clearly gave to me in 2008 and confirmed in 2009. Much, but not all, of what the Lord has revealed to me I have reported on in many of my writings. More recently, I added a prophetic section to my web site to report on some of the major ones.

Please understand that my motive for sharing these things is not self-centered. Recently, the Lord told me that I must report what He speaks to me; I must warn His people. Frankly, up to this point, I have felt restrained to do so. Who will listen? Aren't I sharing things people within and without the Church already know or are being told by countless other voices? These are the types of questions that have followed me over the years. However, at this juncture in history, I no longer have a choice in the matter. It matters not that others are speaking or what they are speaking.

In this regard, I was reviewing my journals going back over ten years and discovered a word from the Lord that I had long forgotten.

At 4:25 am, on **July 9, 1999**, I heard:

"Great cataclysmic upheaval is coming, the likes of which man has never seen or will see again. I will shake the heavens and the earth and this will shake the institutions of the world. In that day, no man will stand; no man will deny that it is the Lord who does such things. All will see that it is the Lord but not all will turn to the Lord God Almighty. Prepare your heart for the days that are coming."

According to God's Word, we know that He is going to shake the heavens and the earth (Haggai 2:6, 21-22; Hebrews 12:26-27), so this word is not unusual or unique. God said He would do it, and it will be done until **the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ** has overtaken the kingdom of this world, for **we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken** (Hebrews 12:28; Revelation 11:15).

The challenge that I see for most people is that they cannot fathom such a thing happening in their own day or in their own land, especially in the United States that thinks it is nearly invincible. Most people want to ignore the possibility and hope for the best. Others would rather live in denial, so they eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow they might die. And yet, others sort of get it, but they live in fear and are making all sorts of survival preparations for the worst possible scenarios.

As Christians, how are we to respond to such a word? Well, the Lord has given us the answer: **Prepare your heart for the days that are coming**. In other words, He is after a heart preparation, not a material preparation. This is not to say He will not lead us to make material preparations, but the most important preparation is of the heart. He is after hearts that are sold out to Him and are living in His presence, readied to literally meet Him, not hearts that are fighting against His judgments that are coming and, in fact, have come in some measure. Time is running out to repent and turn to the Lord.

Heart preparation requires abiding in Him, standing in His council in intimacy, knowing Him as our trust, seeking Him, hearing Him, and, most of all, loving Him, among other things.

We need to be like the five wise virgins and make preparations to meet the Bridegroom. Can you hear the midnight cry off in the distance but growing louder: "**Behold, the Bridegroom! Come out to meet Him**" (Matthew 25:6)? I can!

Considering the many things that have happened since the beginning of the 21st century, there is no doubt that the heat of judgment has been turned up, so to speak. Clearly, regional events on this order have occurred, and there have been man-made crises that have shaken the institutions of the world, such as the financial crisis of 2008 that was foreshadowed by the collapse of the World Trade Center seven years earlier and is still with us. However, we have yet to see a great cataclysmic event or series of events that shakes heaven and earth and the institutions of the entire world simultaneously through which no man can stand. In a great sense, the coming manifestation of the Kingdom of God on earth, in its own right, will be an upheaval the likes of which no man has ever seen.

The one event that, perhaps, is the closest to this word from the Lord is the Japanese 8.9 earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear meltdown that occurred on March 11, 2011. I have shared on this before, especially in light of a dream I received about a FedEx box truck flying in the air and crashing to the ground. See Prophetic P#27. I believe much is being withheld from the world public about the devastation of this one event. The point is that this cataclysmic event is a forerunner of the fulfillment of the 1999 word.

Consider some of the major events that have occurred in our new millennium. You may recall others, but these are some of the ones I have recorded in my journal. Mind you, I have left out many other events, such as the devastating tornadoes that have hit and continue to hit the US each year or the turmoil in the Middle East that has toppled nations and dictators. What follows are only some shakings. During this period, there have been far too many earthquakes to report on in this issue.

September 11, 2001	World Trade Center attacked and crumbled to the ground; nearly 3,000 killed in all locations attacked
December 26, 2004	Indonesia 9.1 quake and tsunami; killed upwards of 280,000; 1.69 million people displaced
August 29, 2005	Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans; flooded major portions of the city; killed over 1,800 and cost \$81 billion
September 18, 2008 forward to 2012	Near meltdown of entire global financial system; vast amounts of paper wealth evaporated
January 12, 2010	Haiti 7.0 quake wiped out the nation; killed over 300,000; left one million homeless; destroyed 280,000 structures
February 5-10, 2010	Worst snowstorms in centuries hit Washington DC, the Mid-Atlantic, and the Northeast. Dubbed "snowmagedon." One storm was likened to a snow hurricane. Chicago had a major snowstorm and quake on the same day
February 26, 2010	Chile 8.8 quake, followed by a 6.0 quake in Argentina. Structures crumbled
September 4, 2010; February 22, 2011	Christchurch, New Zealand 7.1 and 6.3 quakes. Structures crumbled
March 11, 2011	Japan 8.9 quake and tsunami; led to nuclear reactor meltdowns; global radiation release; killed over 18,000
May 6, 2011	Worst flooding of the Mississippi River in history
July 5, 2011	Biblical proportion dust storms in Arizona
August 23, 2011	Rare 5.9 quake hit the US from New York to South Carolina, especially Washington DC where the National Cathedral and the Washington Monument were damaged

Let us not fight against His judgments; let us turn to the Lord with a whole heart that loves the very love of our life, the Lord Jesus! He alone is our way through to the end and into His glory of the next age.

THE UPWARD CALL

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(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

#06-1206

Shaking Heaven, Earth, & Institutions

January 31, 2012

The last issue was about a word the Lord gave me in 1999 that "**a great cataclysmic upheaval is coming**" upon the world. I was led to this word after having forgotten about it for over a decade. However, without any doubt, at least in my mind, the Lord has been gradually turning up the heat of judgment, so to speak, since the beginning of the 21st century.

God is merciful, and, in His love for the world, He has been and continues to give the world, especially His Church, ample opportunity to repent and turn to Him. When all is said and done, no one will be able to accuse God of not warning and of lacking mercy, or even love, for that matter.

God said He would shake the heavens and the earth. In Haggai, He also made it very clear that this shaking will be of **the thrones and the power of the kingdoms of the nations** (2:21-22). According to John's Patmos vision, we also know that heaven is getting ready to make a mighty declaration.

And the seventh angel trumpeted. And there were great voices in Heaven, saying, **The kingdoms of the world became our Lord's, even of His Christ; and He shall reign to the ages of the ages.** (Revelation 11:15 LITV)

But be assured that a great worldwide upheaval is coming that will cause man's structures, both physical and institutional, to crumble. I have assurance of this through a word He spoke to me on **February 27, 1995**, even before the warning given in 1999. The 1995 word was: "**When you see the structures crumble, testify of My kingdom.**"

Putting the 1995 and 1999 words together serves as a mighty powerful indication that God is indeed going to shake things created (Hebrews 12:27) in fulfillment of scripture. I trust you understand what you just read. I do not mean that this event is just one of many that will occur to the end of the age, as if it were a prototype of one of many to occur over an extended period of, say, hundreds of years.

No; I mean that this great upheaval is designed for one purpose, and that is for man's structures, meaning "created things that cannot remain," to be brought to dust as the Kingdom of Christ comes to earth to rule over the nations. In other words, this is an end-time event that must come in order for the Kingdom of Righteousness to come.

Let me be clear; the Lord has been causing many created things to crumble since the beginning of our present century, but He is not finished. These shakings will continue and even intensify until He brings the hammer down, so to speak, in one final blow that will crush the kingdoms of this world *all together at the same time*. We know this is true based on Daniel's vision of the Stone Kingdom.

(34) You continued until **a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image** on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them to pieces. (35) Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were **together** [meaning at the same time] broken to pieces, and they became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors. And the wind carried them away so that no place was found for them. **And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.** (Daniel 2:34-35 LITV)

I have long held that one of the reasons why man's structures will crumble as the end of the age approaches is because they cannot stand in the presence of or withstand the power of the Kingdom of Christ. As Jesus, the King of kings moves closer to earth, figuratively speaking, to rule and reign through His conquerors, the unrighteous kingdoms of men will not be able to stand nor withstand the Kingdom of Righteousness. They will be crushed under the weight, not only of His righteousness but also of His

glory. What does darkness have to do with light? What do hatred and war have to do with love and peace? What does man's partial, unjust government have to do with God's impartial, just government?

It is like trying to mix oil with water; they do not mix. When the **Kingdom of the Heavens** (another term for the Kingdom of God) begins to descend upon the earth, all that is not of the character and nature of God's Kingdom must be shaken down and blown away like chaff.

So, this great upheaval may be a rough road for many; but it is a good thing, for when the dust settles, a new world order will descend from heaven the likes of which the world and mankind has never seen. The new world order will not be of man's choosing that the elite of the world continue to plot to bring about. No; this new world order is of God; it is His doing that will be brought about through a called, chosen, and faithful people who have been conformed to the image of Christ and raised up to reign over the nations and to teach them the righteousness of God and the way to righteousness.

At night my soul longs for You, Indeed, my spirit within me seeks You diligently; **for when the earth experiences Your judgments the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness.** (Isaiah 26:9 NASB)

Notice how Isaiah's soul and spirit longed for and sought God diligently. This is the heart of a conqueror. But also notice that he saw the purpose of God's judgments. The judgments of God are designed with one thing in mind, and that is righteousness. His judgments are so that the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness.

Answer this: Have the nations of the world or the inhabitants of the world learned the righteousness of God on their own, apart from those who have the Holy Spirit dwelling within them? The answer is that they have not and will not learn the righteousness of God. Of course, we know that imputed righteousness comes through faith in God's Son.

Instead, the nations defiantly stand against God and His Son.

(2) The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying, (3) "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us." (Psalm 2:2-3 ESV)

God will answer this defiance by giving them what they want; He will break all their bonds and cast them away and bring their kingdoms to dust so that they will learn what true righteousness is all about. Again, this is the mercy of God. Paul, the chief among sinners and the one who persecuted *the* Christ while in unbelief, knew it. Paul was amazed at the unsearchable judgments of God.

(32) For God shut up all into disobedience, that He may show mercy to all. (33) O the depth of the riches and of the wisdom and the knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! (Romans 11:32-33 LITV)

In closing, again, consider the word given to me by the Lord.

"Great cataclysmic upheaval is coming, the likes of which man has never seen or will see again. I will shake the heavens and the earth and this will shake the institutions of the world. In that day, no man will stand; no man will deny that it is the Lord who does such things. All will see that it is the Lord but not all will turn to the Lord God Almighty. Prepare your heart for the days that are coming."

In that day of great upheaval, the inhabitants of the world will finally come to see that there truly is a God, the Most High, who rules over the realm of mankind. After all, He is the Creator of all things and He upholds all things by the word of His power. The heavens do rule!

"Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters." (Revelation 14:7 NASB)

THE UPWARD CALL

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IN CHRIST JESUS.*

(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

#06-1207

Judgment of the US Political System

February 1, 2012

I must share the burden the Lord has placed on my heart to warn of impending upheaval. Without doubt, we can be assured that many more things are about to be shaken, much like the created things that have been shaken so far in our new century. But a day is fast approaching when God will lower the hammer and bring about a great cataclysmic upheaval. It is coming, for the Kingdom of Christ is coming. The fact of the matter is that the manifestation on earth of the Kingdom of the Son of God's love, in its own right, will be the greatest upheaval this world has ever known.

For Christians, the questions are: Like the five wise virgins, will you be ready? Are you watching and waiting? Are you preparing your heart to meet the love of your life? Are you standing in the intimacy of His council? Are you a conqueror through Him who loves you? Have you set your mind on above? Are you seeking first His Kingdom and Righteousness? Are you storing up your treasures in heaven? Do you love the appearing of the Lord? Well, I leave you with these questions, for this is not the subject of this issue.

In light of the coming upheaval, what is on my heart for this issue is the fact that God is judging the political system of the United States. Yes, God is judging this corrupt system, but I do not believe that we have seen the full force of His judgments that will ultimately transform it into His government. I have no doubt that this will occur, and probably sooner than later.

I have shared on this subject in many other writings, but I want to pull it together in this one issue so that the point is not missed. I especially want to do this in light of the fact that so many Christians are embroiled in the politics of our day and the election season that is in full swing. To this end, the following are some words the Lord has spoken to me and some things I have seen in relation to the political system, some of which are so obvious that they are hardly worth mentioning.

The first indication I received of the judgment of the political system came with a dream that I had on **February 28, 2008** and which the Lord interpreted for me on **September 16, 2008**. See Prophetic P#16. The dream revealed that the American people are tied to a political system by cords of falsehood. Isaiah has a word about this.

**(18) Woe to those who drag iniquity with the cords of falsehood, and sin as if with cart ropes; ...
(20) Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! (21) Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight!** (Isaiah 5:18, 20-21 NASB)

Is there any doubt that our current political system matches this description? Just listen to what comes forth from Washington DC, and it is hardly necessary to make the point. To add to this, on **November 29, 2010**, the Lord spoke to me: "**Woes have come!**" Interestingly, there are three woes in the above verses.

The good news is that the Lord has assured me that these cords of lies or falsehood will be cut.

Second, in line with this word, on **March 11, 2008**, I was given a very clear dream of the **Titanic sinking** as an indication of the total collapse of the financial system. See Prophetic #P17. I believe judgment of our political system goes hand-in-hand with judgment of the financial system (Mystery Babylon) because both are based on greed, and the political system is what has yoked us to a corrupt financial system.

Third, after these, I began to hear such things as "**Tumult is coming**" (July 5-8, 2008), "**A great storm is coming**" (July 15, 2008), and "**Crisis is coming**" (September 23, 2008).

Fourth, on **February 10, 2009**, I heard: **"Thus saith the Lord, 'I have lifted up a hammer over the United States, and I am about to strike at the heart of the nation.'" See Prophetic P#25.** The heart of the nation could be the literal central region of America or our capital city. I have held that it is the latter, since this is what drives the entire country, whether good or bad. The hammer is the fiery word of God.

"Is not My word like fire?" declares the LORD, "and like a hammer which shatters a rock?" (Jeremiah 23:29 NASB)

Fifth, following this, I continued to hear of impending crises and disasters coming (e.g., April 13, 2009, June 23, 2009), and then on **June 24, 2010**, I was given another word.

"America is going into the greatest trial she has ever faced. It will seem as if all hope is lost and she will not make it. But then, the light of My glory will shine upon her and she will turn to see Me in the face of My chosen. The times surely will change. It is coming. No man can stop what is coming upon not only America but all the nations. The earth will teeter but I will right her."

Sixth, I believe there is a clear connection between the **National Christmas Tree** in Washington DC toppling on **February 9, 2011** and the **5.9 earthquake that hit DC on August 23, 2011** that damaged the top stones of both the **National Cathedral and the Washington Monument**. Let us not be persuaded that this was just any normal earthquake. It was a rare one, especially in the distance it traveled and the fact that it caused damage to two national monuments. I believe this was part of God's judgment on the political system, the heart of the nation. We could say that it was a shot across the bow.

For more on the connection between the tree toppling and the quake, see issues #05-1132, February 19, 2011, *National Christmas Tree Topped*, #05-1143, August 23, 2011, *Quake News of the Day*, and #05-1145, August 25, 2011, *The Number 186 in Light of the Quake*.

Seventh, many years prior, on **September 24, 2001**, I heard: **"A rare earthquake is coming. You will know the end has come by a major earthquake."** Interestingly, in the days leading up to the August 23, 2011 DC quake, I was telling a good friend that I was expecting a rare quake to hit, most likely on the east coast. Whether this could be classified a major quake depends on the spiritual meaning of *major*. Does *major* imply something physical (i.e., damage) or, simply, significant? Time will tell.

Finally, the judgment of God can take many different forms. Sometimes the very evil that is manifested is the judgment itself. For example, abortion is the judgment of God for not listening to God (Hosea 9:13-17). In like fashion, the pointing of the finger is the judgment of God for ignoring the more weighty issues of caring for those in need.

(8) "Then your light will break out like the dawn, and your recovery will speedily spring forth; and your righteousness will go before you; the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. (9) "Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry, and He will say, 'Here I am.' If you remove the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger and speaking wickedness, (10) and if you give yourself to the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then your light will rise in darkness and your gloom will become like midday. (Isaiah 58:8-10 NASB)

In scripture, God is the one who yokes His people. He placed iron yokes on the houses of Israel and Judah for their evil hearts that had turned from Him. The above does not state so directly, so we cannot be sure He placed this yoke on them, but God told them that they had a problem and it was the pointing of the finger and speaking wickedness. Is this not a familiar trait of our political system, especially the rhetoric coming from those running for president? What is the remedy? **Remove the yoke and give yourself to what matters to God!**

Here is the good news: God's judgments will lead to full recovery, resulting in the righteousness and glory of the Lord going forth. This is the end to which God is driving our political system, with one big difference. It is destined to come under the government of God as America becomes a Kingdom nation ruled by justice, righteousness, impartiality, lovingkindness, peace, and truth!

THE UPWARD CALL

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IN CHRIST JESUS.*

(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

TUC #06-1208

by – Stuart H. Pouliot

February 2, 2012

Understanding the Times

On December 12, 2010, the Lord cautioned me that "**nothing is as it seems.**"

I keep pondering these words, for they mean that we cannot trust ourselves to clearly understand the times and how God is going to bring about His plan for these times. What we think could happen might be way off the mark, and what we think could never happen might be right on the mark. Of course, we have scripture to guide us; however, let's face the fact that we can easily misinterpret scripture, especially where it is veiled in symbols, as is much of Revelation.

For those who hear words or have dreams and visions from the Lord, it could be a rather unsettling thought that nothing is as it seems. But, we must keep in mind that words, dreams, and visions truly from the Lord are given for a very specific purpose, such as for exhortation and encouragement. The challenge that many face is how to interpret these things from the Lord. Unfortunately, He does not give a 101 lesson on how to interpret them, although there are those who do teach such a thing.

In my experience, it is important to ask the Lord for an interpretation, and He is faithful to give one. Mind you, He does not necessarily do it instantaneously. I have had some interpretations come that very same moment or day, others have come months or years later, and some have yet to come. However, lately, the interpretations are coming much sooner than later. I suspect this is because we are nearing the end of the age, and many things are about to fall into place.

The interpretations that I find the most encouraging and supportable are the ones that relate directly to scripture. When the Lord gives a word based on scripture, then I know that this is important, and there is a vital lesson to be learned or message to be delivered. For example, I received the word *Engedi* during a night last year, and this became a teachable moment for me personally. I wrote on this.

I must admit that when predictive words, dreams, or visions literally happen, it is exciting, for this truly confirms that you have not lost your marbles, so to speak, and the Lord is revealing things to you. But let me be clear that if it is from the Lord, it must and will happen.

Those who experience the Lord in this way are encouraged to journal everything; leave nothing out and then periodically review your journal. In time, you will see patterns and will learn what seems to be of the Lord and what is not. I have learned to make a record of every day, even if there is nothing relevant to record. If a major event occurs in the world, I jot it down as well, for I have come to see patterns in these. I have had the Lord refer me back to these events as a result of something He speaks to me.

A word of caution; in my early years, I treated these things more as novelties that I simply recorded. As time passed, I began to realize that they are not novelties. The Lord is not in the business of entertaining us or boosting our egos with things we might think others have not seen or heard.

I am thankful I made journal entries of many things early in my walk with the Lord; otherwise, I could have missed some vital messages from the Lord. I can look back now and see that the Lord has been faithful to repeat certain things to be sure I did not miss the point.

Another thought on my heart is that when it comes to the prophetic, especially as it relates to people, we must have a heart of love for those to whom it relates. Again, we need to be clear that the Lord gives us these things for encouragement and exhortation, but even exhortation must be given in love, not with a big stick that beats up on others or those not of our camp.

Understanding the Times

Well, what does this have to do with this matter of nothing is as it seems? Frankly, everything!

It is an exhortation from the Lord designed to drive us into His intimate council, as I shared in the first issue for 2012 and in article #36, January 2012, *Who Has Stood in the Council of the Lord*. You are encouraged to read these if you have not done so already.

It is imperative in these last days to be in intimate relationship with the Lord Jesus. There are far too many voices and influences in the world and in the church-at-large that are all trying to persuade our minds to think certain ways. For example, if we pay attention to the survivalists who are stocking up on food, gold, guns, and bullets, we will interpret what the Lord shares with us, whether in words, dreams, or visions, as if the world is about to come to a violent, catastrophic end. By the way, if we follow the pre-tribulation rapture school of thought, we might come to the same conclusion.

Consequently, as I look back on my journals, especially the word about a great cataclysmic upheaval coming, I have to ask myself what this means. If nothing is as it seems, then surely God could be about to do something that none of us ever considered. What if this upheaval is a direct judgment of the corrupt ones who have been deceiving the world and keeping all of us in bondage to their system of greed? What if this upheaval is an overturning of the elites that have been deceiving all of us? **What if the upheaval is the Kingdom of God itself?** If so, perhaps the earth will not go into some sort of near destruction. We will know soon enough.

The bottom line is that we need to be like the sons of Issachar who understood the times.

Of the sons of Issachar, men who understood the times, with knowledge of what Israel should do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their kinsmen were at their command. (1 Chronicles 12:32 NASB)

However, we have a challenge in our day that they did not have in their day. They were not bombarded with a countless number of voices expressed through a vast array of media. Daniel was told that knowledge would increase in the end (Daniel 12:4). How are we to work our way through all these voices and knowledge? There is only one way. Stand in the council of the Lord to hear the one voice and tune out all the other voices! But how are we to do this? Consider a few verses.

(2) Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. **(3) For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.** (Colossians 3:2-3 NASB)

(20) Which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, (21) far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. (Ephesians 1:20-21 NASB)

(4) But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, **(5) even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ** (by grace you have been saved), **(6) and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus....** (Ephesians 2:4-6 NASB)

But put on the Lord Jesus Christ.... (Romans 13:14 NASB)

We come into His council by coming into the place of our Lord. It starts with knowing that we have died and our lives are hidden with Christ in God. Where is Christ? He is seated at the right hand of the Father in the heavenlies, far above everything, including every name, and, I might add, by extrapolation, every voice and word. To make sure we understand this truth, Paul adds that we are seated in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus. When we put on the Lord, we are seated with Him in the heavenlies.

Dear beloved in Christ, we need to stop listening to the lies that tell us otherwise and by faith stand in this truth as we seek to come into the council of our Lord. He calls us into His council and into the intimacy of His presence. This is the way to understand the times and to interpret words, dreams, and visions. By faith, let us stand in His council.

THE UPWARD CALL

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(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

TUC #06-1209

by – Stuart H. Pouliot

February 7, 2012

What is the Endgame?

Recently, I shared some thoughts with some brothers about God's ultimate purpose. What started us down this road of thought was the question of whether people get a second chance to be saved after they die. If you have read my material, you should know the answer I offered. To say the least, it was a good discussion. Near the end of the time, I was asked one question: ***What is the endgame?*** This is a great question and one with a very simple answer: **ALL! All is the endgame.**

Without doubt, most Christians have been taught that there is no such thing as a second chance. One must turn to the Lord in this life, that is, during our **present evil age** (Paul's words), or else face an eternal torture chamber called *hell* with literal flames of fire licking at their physical body and worms coming out of their ears, and this will go on forever and ever and ever, with no chance of ever coming out of this hell-hole. Please put on your logic cap for a minute. How long can a physical body endure physical fire? Not very long! Others might counter this with the idea of hell simply being outside the presence of God forever. As we will see, the endgame does not allow for this.

Personally, I do not believe the question of a "second chance" is even the right question. Hebrews 9:27 states: **And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this [comes] judgment.** When one dies, judgment follows. It doesn't say when judgment occurs but that it occurs sometime after death. Obviously, in the case of those who appear before the Great White Throne Judgment, it occurs at the end of the Lord's Day right before God's Day.

However, according to Paul, no one is exempt from judgment.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. (2 Corinthians 5:10 NASB)

(10) But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? **For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.** (11) For it is written, "AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, **EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL GIVE PRAISE TO GOD.**" (Romans 14:10-11 NASB)

We must all appear sounds like a pretty inclusive statement. The more I have studied Paul, the more I have come to see that one of his most favorite words is *all*, the word of the endgame.

Paul repeated this same word in his epistle to the Philippians.

(9) For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, (10) so that **at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, (11) and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.** (Philippians 2:9-11 NASB)

Paul simply declared a fact that the Lord spoke through Isaiah the prophet.

(22) "Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other. (23) **"I have sworn by Myself, The word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness and will not turn back, that to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear allegiance.** (24) "They will say of Me, 'Only in the LORD are righteousness and strength.' Men will come to Him, and all who were angry at Him will be put to shame. (Isaiah 45:22-24 NASB)

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Again, through Isaiah, the Lord said: **"My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure"** (Isaiah 46:11).

What is the Lord's good pleasure? Adding what was given to Paul by the Holy Spirit, it is that every knee in heaven and on earth and under the earth, meaning all things and all people, will bow the knee to Jesus. The word *every* is synonymous with the word *all*, which is an inclusive word with nothing left out. The Lord has sworn and His word has gone forth throughout creation, and it will not return to Him void.

Now, for years I thought that believers will willingly bow the knee, but unbelievers will be forced to bow the knee; the angels will force them to their knees before they are cast into the lake of fire to be roasted and toasted for eternity. Fortunately, I began searching scripture on my own and discovered that the word *bow* does not mean one is forced into action.

In the Greek, the word translated as *bow* is *kampto*, which means "to bend." *Vines Expository Dictionary* states that it means "to bend, is used especially of bending the knees in religious veneration." The word *veneration* applies to worship and means "to look upon with feelings of deep respect; a feeling of deep respect and reverence." In other words, *kampto* applies to one who willingly bows out of deep respect and is not forced or coerced into it. If Paul meant that all will be forced to bow, then he would have used the word *sunkampto*, which means "to bend down by compulsory force" (Romans 11:10).

Scripture makes it clear that all will willingly bow the knee. Further, **no one is able to say Jesus is Lord, except by the Holy Spirit** (1 Corinthians 12:3). But there is more.

"And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw [or, drag] all to Myself." But this He was saying signifying by what sort of death He was about to die. (John 12:32-33 ALT)

The word *draw* literally means "to drag," and Jesus meant exactly what He said. If He died on the cross of Calvary for the sin of the world, which He most definitely did, then He would literally draw all men to Himself. He did not elaborate on how He will do it, but He declared that He will do it.

"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws [drags] him; and I will raise him up on the last day." (John 6:44 NASB)

The word *draw* comes from the same Greek word meaning "to drag." Thus, the dragging starts with the Father. He drags people to His Son. But notice that the Lord said that He would drag all to Himself, and the word *all* is an inclusive word that means "everybody." In other words, it is the Father's will to drag all mankind to His Son, and it is His Son's will to drag all mankind to Himself.

There are many other ways that could be used to make the point, but these few verses are a start for the curious to see it is not a matter of first chance, second chance, or any other chance. God has not left anything to chance. Scripture clearly tells us that all will bow the knee and confess Jesus, and the Lord will draw all to Himself. Some might debate when the last day will occur, but it seems that the last day for all the dead to be raised up is the **Great White Throne**. However, the **conquerors of Christ** will be **raised up from among the dead** a thousand years earlier in the **first resurrection** (Revelation 20:4-6) or, as Paul called it, the **out-resurrection** [exanastasis] (Philippians 3:11 Wuest).

What is the endgame? **It is All!** God has purposed to save all mankind, for the cross was and will forever be a 100% success in the salvation of all, not all at the same time but all eventually.

So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. (Romans 5:18 NASB)

As everyone dies because of Adam, so also everyone will be made alive because of Christ. ... In Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own order.... (1 Corinthians 15:22-23 GW, NASB)

To understand how He will do this, one needs to understand the true nature of **the lake of fire**, which is **the fiery law of God** that comes forth from the **Throne of God** for the purpose of restoration and restitution, so that **God the Father may be all in all** (1 Corinthians 15:28), which is His ultimate purpose. **For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things** (Romans 11:36 NASB).

THE UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God
IN CHRIST JESUS.*

(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

TUC #06-1210

by – Stuart H. Pouliot

February 8, 2012

Craftiness in Deceitful Scheming

(11) And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, (12) for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; (13) until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. (14) **As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;** (15) but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, (16) from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love. (Ephesians 4:11-16 NASB)

There is a secular expression that says: *Get on the bandwagon*. According to Wikipedia, it is called “the bandwagon effect” and is the observation that people do and believe things because many other people do and believe the same things. Simply, people tend to follow the crowd without examining the merits of a particular thing. Unfortunately, the bandwagon effect can be quite successful and gather up a lot of people. It is like a fad and referred to as the “herd mentality.” The more people who go along with it, the more people will join it without examining it carefully. As they say, people “hop on the bandwagon.”

The bandwagon originated as a wagon that carried a band in a parade, circus, or other entertainment, and the phrase “jump on the bandwagon” was first used in American politics. People (voters) would jump on political bandwagons, that is, support certain candidates for office, not necessarily based on the merits of the candidate’s positions. In our modern age of instant communications, polls, focus groups, and biases from the news media, it is easy to see how a nation can become so fixated on politics and so steered by the views of the news media and the almost endless number of so-called experts and commentators that people jump on the bandwagon of candidates, not so much based on facts but much more on what the herd is doing.

Now, this might seem like I am about to launch into a discussion of the present race for the next President of the US. This is not what is on my mind. I am thankful that we have a King who is seated on the throne and ready to come to this earth to set things right.

Some years ago, the matter of bandwagons came to me as I was meditating on what is going on in the visible church of our day. As I meditated, the word *fad* came to me, and I felt that I was to do a word search and look at the first thing that came along. Well, it was this matter of bandwagon that popped up.

It seems to me that some (perhaps, many) of the Lord’s people hop on the bandwagon because many others are doing it. By this, I mean that there is a herd mentality amongst the Lord’s people that leads them to follow after every new wind that blows through the pews, bookstores, and the Internet. For example, someone writes a book and someone with a name endorses it and the next thing you know it is a best seller and the author is a new leader of the modern-day church. It matters not if there are things in the book that are not quite according to scripture or are extra-Biblical in an inaccurate sort of way. What matters to the masses is that everyone else is reading it or following it (whatever it is).

This leads to the verses quoted above, especially verse 14 which, in the Concordant Version, reads ***by craftiness with a view to the systematizing of the deception***. This phrase seems to capture the heart

Craftiness in Deceitful Scheming

of what Paul meant. Other translations use phrases like *systematized error* (DNT), *clever strategies that would lead us astray* (ISV), and *plot to seduce in their subtlety* (JMT).

I believe Paul was conveying to the ecclesia that a system of thought could be developed based on error, especially based on a spirit to deceive, that becomes a system of thought that permeates how one views many things.

Systematizing is not merely accepting something false; it is building an entire framework based on a deception, so that everything is seen through this deception. Take Paul's hope of the *out*-resurrection as an example. As a former Pharisee, Paul believed in a physical resurrection of the body, and he held to this belief after the Lord broke into his life. In fact, 1 Corinthians 15 is a defense of the resurrection of not only the Lord Jesus but of all mankind. However, some have taken Paul's use of the word *resurrection* and made it a spiritual resurrection one receives in this life. The result is that the one thing that is essential to the hope of believers is systematically put in a lower place of importance, ignored, or distorted. But it is worse than this, for Paul's real hope was not to appear in the general resurrection of the dead but to appear in the *out*-resurrection or the resurrection *from* the dead. If you don't know the difference between the two, you may have fallen for the systematizing of the deception.

One of the devil's greatest achievements has been the systematizing of deception. He has not only succeeded in taking what is false but in taking it and packaging it into a systematic framework and then passing it off as the truth of God's Word. It appears as light but at its very core is darkness. Many of God's people have been hooked into various frameworks of deception. I confess that at times in my life I have, so I only have the greatest amount of compassion on my brethren who write and teach in this day. I pray frequently that I not fall into deception but remain open to correction in all that I see or write.

I suspect that there are many such examples of systematized deception in the doctrines and teachings of the "church." Many of them have become **the tradition of men** and those who teach them are simply pawns in the game of deception. This does not necessarily mean that they are deceivers, but that they have been deceived themselves and are simply unknowingly passing the deception along to others who willingly jump on the bandwagon without verifying if it is truth or not.

Unfortunately, I believe that there is an even more insidious thing happening in our day. When people are warned that something is amiss, they don't seem to want to hear it or to care that it might be off. It is as if they have become dull of hearing or hardened to the truth. They are more interested in being excited, or, as Paul warned, the time has come that **they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths** (2 Timothy 4:3-4 NASB).

Are we so naïve to think that this cannot happen in our day? It is not uncommon to hear people respond to such challenges by saying "God is much bigger than that" or "no one has all the truth." To this last point, this is true, for we all see dimly, but this should not be an excuse for being lazy with the truth, not verifying what we hear or read, or worse, desiring to hear only what appeals to us, that is, tickles our ear.

In our day of instant gratification and media intensity, we need to question any new so-called spiritual matter, event, teaching, or prophetic word, especially when everyone is jumping on the bandwagon. My warning to all that have an ear to hear is that the Christian bandwagon of our day may lead you astray and away from **the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ**. Perhaps, it is time for some to jump off the bandwagon and cling to Christ and Him alone. It is time to grow up, to mature in Christ.

Dear beloved in Christ, let us not jump on every new bandwagon that comes along.

Let us be as shrewd as serpents and as innocent as doves. Let us discern in spirit all that we hear and see. Let us test the spirits. Let us look for true fruit of the spirit, the fruit of righteousness.

Let us **love the truth, seek to know the truth, and walk in the truth** (2 John 1, 4).

THE UPWARD CALL

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but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God
IN CHRIST JESUS.*

(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

TUC #06-1211

by – Stuart H. Pouliot

February 11, 2012

God & His Word – An Enigma "We See in a Mirror Dimly"

(10) But when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away. (11) When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. (12) For now **we see in a mirror dimly** [*ainigma*], but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known. (1 Corinthians 13:10-12 NASB)

Recently, I was having some fellowship with a brother in Christ, and he shared with me that, in the above verse, the word *dimly* is better translated as *enigma*. To me, the implications of this are profound. It is unfortunate that most translations avoid the word *enigma*, for it speaks volumes about God and His Word.

Most all translations use the words *darkly*, *cloudy*, *blurred*, *obscurely*, *puzzled*, or *similitude*; however, the *Concordant Literal New Testament* actually uses the word *enigma*.

For at present **we are observing by means of a mirror, in an enigma** [*ainigma*], yet then, face to face. (1 Corinthians 13:12 CV)

In Greek, the word for *enigma* is *ainigma*, which, according to *Strong's Concordance*, is "an *obscure* saying ("**enigma**")", that is, (abstractly) *obscureness*: - X darkly" (G135), and it is a derivation of *ainos* (G136), which refers to a **tale** or story. According to the *New Englishman's Greek-English Concordance & Lexicon* (George Wigram), *ainigma* is a "**riddle**, an obscure thing, dimly perceived."

Webster's Dictionary states that "*enigma* comes from the Greek *ainigma*, to speak in riddles < *ainos*, tale, story," and defines it as "a perplexing statement; **riddle**; hence, a perplexing, baffling, or seemingly inexplicable matter, person, etc. synonym **mystery**." Further, the word *riddle* is defined as a "a problem or puzzle in the form of a question, statement, etc, **so formulated that some ingenuity is required to solve or answer it**; conundrum; any puzzling, perplexing or apparently inexplicable person or thing, as a difficult problem or enigmatic saying; *enigma*."

Given these definitions, it seems that the word *dimly* and the other words used by most translations do a disservice to understanding Paul's meaning. The words *enigma*, *riddle*, *tale*, and *mystery* imply something much greater than simply something obscure, dim, or dark, which makes it sound as if Paul was stating that in this life we could never understand or discover the deep things or mysteries of God, and perhaps, we should not even try.

Over the years, I have met many people who actually think this way, especially when it comes to knowing the truth or searching out God's Word for the truth. It is not uncommon to hear: "No one can have a lock on the truth"; or "Many say they have the truth, but they all cannot be right"; or "All the truth that God wants us to know has been revealed already"; or "We will know the truth when Jesus comes"; or "Jesus is the Truth; we don't need anything else." To this last point, some commentators claim that when Paul wrote this, his understanding was dark or obscure but that the mystery was unveiled to him later; at which time, it was no longer dim. It is like saying: "End of story; no need to search any further."

The implication is that we should not try to seek for the truth or seek to unlock as much as we can of God's secrets or truths hidden within His Word. Unfortunately, it goes deeper, for some do not even think there is anything for which to search out in the Word as if all truth has been revealed.

God & His Word – An Enigma

However, Solomon would not agree with this thinking. Wisdom says: **Those who diligently seek me will find me** (Proverbs 8:17). Regarding discernment and understanding, he tells us: **For if you cry for discernment, lift your voice for understanding; if you seek her as silver and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will discern the fear of the LORD and discover the knowledge of God.** (Proverbs 2:3-5). Further, the prophets would not agree either, for they know: **Surely the Lord God does nothing unless He reveals His secret counsel to His servants the prophets** (Amos 3:7).

In other words, God loves to reveal His secrets to His people, especially to those who diligently seek Him in His Word.

In the Hebrew text, the word *riddle* appears in four settings: Samson propounded a riddle (Judges 14:12-19); David inclined his ear to a proverb and expressed his riddle on a harp (Psalm 49:4); through Ezekiel, the Lord propounded a riddle to the house of Israel (Ezekiel 17:1-2); and Solomon wrote: **A wise man will hear and increase in learning, and a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel, to understand a proverb and a figure, the words of the wise and their riddles.** (Proverbs 1:5-6).

The Hebrew word for *riddle* is *chiydah*, which, according to Strong's Concordance, means "a *puzzle*; hence a *trick, conundrum, sententious maxim*: - dark saying (sentence, speech), hard question, proverb, riddle" (H2420). *Chiydah* is made up of four Hebrew letters with a gematria of 27.

Hebrew	Numeric Value	Literal Meaning	Symbolic Meaning
Cheth	8	Fence, hedge, chamber	Private, to separate
Yod	10	Closed hand	Deed, work, to make
Daleth	4	Door	Pathway, to enter
Heh	5	Window, Fence	"the," to reveal

The letters alone give the impression of something hedged in, a private place into which one must enter. It may require ingenious work to enter into this place; however, there is a pathway by which to enter; and once inside, there is revelation. Putting these meanings together in a sentence yields something quite instructive: **"A private work to make the way to enter into revelation,"** or **"Entering the private chamber is a work that leads to revelation."**

Obviously, there are many ways to approach God's Word. However, the word *enigma* implies that there are hidden treasures of truth in the Word that need to be mined like silver. The Word of God is an enigma. It is a puzzle to be put together or a riddle to be solved. The whole of the Bible is one huge riddle that stares at us saying: "Search me! Solve me!"

God wrote it this way and encourages us to search and study His Word to discover the many truths that He has hidden within His Word. He wants us to search, and He wants to give us revelation. **His Word is like a puzzle with many pieces that need to be put together or a riddle that takes ingenuity and imagination to solve.** It may be baffling or perplexing at times, but we are to diligently keep at it until He opens the eyes of our understanding. Actually, God Himself is an enigma or riddle, hiding around every corner to see if we can find Him. He is there at every turn, but we must seek to find Him.

Consider this; during WWII, the Germans had a cipher machine, a code breaker that was broken (decoded) by the British, based on early work done by Polish mathematicians. Some say this achievement shortened the war by two years because the Allies often knew German battlefield orders before the German generals did. The cipher machine was called *Enigma*.

Think of the implications. We have an enigma decoder within us called the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth. God is pleased when we search His Word, seeking to solve His riddles, coming to know His heart and His truth, and His plans and purpose. Don't run from the enigma; seek to solve it! And, if you cannot do it or are not inclined to do it, do not despise those who do; learn from them.

THE UPWARD CALL

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but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
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IN CHRIST JESUS.*

(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

TUC #06-1212

by – Stuart H. Pouliot

April 15, 2012

God's Judgment is for Glory

As the church of God, we must not lose sight of the judgment of God. However, at times, from what I hear coming from the church of our day, it seems that some quarters are ready to move beyond God's judgment as if we are on the other side of the first resurrection. Another way of stating this is that it seems some Christian groups are expecting to come into the glory of Christ in this age with little vision or expectation of the glory of the next age. Part of the problem comes from the emphasis that the church is going to heaven and a failure to see that heaven, in the form of the Kingdom of Christ, is coming to the earth; and when it does come, the conquerors of the Body of Christ will rule over the nations for 1,000 years.

Perhaps, open dialogue about judgment is avoided because it is seen as something terrible, as if God is so mad that He might torch some in literal fire. What we need to see is that judgment from ***God is love*** is a good thing; it is good and right.

To make the point, let us consider some Scripture.

Early on in the Bible, through Abraham, we are told that God is the Judge of all the earth.

'Far be it from Thee; doth the Judge of all the earth not do justice?' (Genesis 18:25 YLT)

The word *Judge* is translated from the Hebrew word *shaphat*, which means "to judge, govern." The word *justice* is translated from the Hebrew word *mishpat*, which means "a verdict, either favorable or unfavorable." In the English language, *justice* refers to being "just or fair." These are judicial terms.

Notice that prior to Abraham stating this truth, the Lord spoke of the blessing given to Abraham, which is what could be called the **Abrahamic Covenant**. I address this covenant in my new book, ***The Ultimate Purpose of God***.

(18) Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? (19) For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice [right] and judgment [mishpat]; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him. (Genesis 18:18-19 KJV)

Abraham's household was to do justice and judgment, which has carried over to our time for all who are of the faith of Abraham, meaning those who belong to Christ (Galatians 3:9, 29). Justice and judgment bring blessing. Does this sound like judgment is a terrible thing if it brings blessing? Hardly!

A similar word appears in Psalm 9 and is quoted in Acts 17.

(7) But the LORD abides forever; He has established His throne for judgment, (8) and He will judge the world in righteousness; He will execute judgment for the peoples with equity. (Psalm 9:7-8 NASB)

(30) Truly, then, God overlooking the times of ignorance, now strictly commands all men everywhere to repent, (31) because He set a day in which "He is going to judge the habitable world in righteousness," by a Man whom He appointed; having given proof to all by raising Him from the dead. Psa. 9:8 (Acts 17:30-31 LITV)

Jesus will judge the world in righteousness. For what purpose? To bring blessing! But there is more.

(9) At night my soul longs for You, Indeed, my spirit within me seeks You diligently; for when the earth experiences Your judgments [*mishpat*] the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness. (10) Though the wicked is shown favor, he does not learn righteousness; he deals unjustly in the land of uprightness, and does not perceive the majesty of the LORD. (Isaiah 26:9-10 NASB)

For the modern-day church that seems satisfied, at least according to their doctrine, that billions are destined for an eternal hell (torture), Isaiah gives us a most profound truth that blows out of the water the tradition of men called *hell*. God's judgments of the earth have a glorious purpose—so that the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness, God's righteousness. Judgment is not for punishment like what man metes out or for destruction or for torture.

When the wicked are left to their own devices, they simply do not learn anything of value. Even when they are shown favor, they do not turn from their wicked way and do not perceive God's majesty. There is only one way for them to come into or to learn true righteousness, and that is through the judgment of God. But, again, the purpose is to learn, not to be destroyed. It is for glory.

When the ancient sons of Israel were in unbelief and the Lord was ready to wipe them out, Moses pleaded for the Lord's reputation among the nations. The Lord heard his plea, pardoned them, and made a promise that extends through our age into the age to come.

(19) "Pardon, I pray, the iniquity of this people according to the greatness of Your lovingkindness, just as You also have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now." (20) So the LORD said, "I have pardoned them according to your word; (21) but indeed, as I live, all the earth will be filled with the glory of the LORD. (Numbers 14:19-21 NASB)

The same promise is given to us through other prophets.

They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:9 NASB)

"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. (Habakkuk 2:14 NASB)

Do you see the greatness of this promise from the Lord? His plan of the ages to achieve His ultimate purpose of all in all is to flood His creation with His glory, starting with earth. The destiny of all the nations is to come into the glory of God. Learning righteousness leads to glory. Praise God!

THE UPWARD CALL

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IN CHRIST JESUS.*

(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

TUC #06-1213

by – Stuart H. Pouliot

April 16, 2012

Judgment Begins with the House of God

Today, some quarters of the church no longer talk of judgment or tribulation, unless perhaps it is for those they see toasting in an eternal hell or the world going into great tribulation after the church is "raptured" off the earth. Instead, there is a lot of talk about the latter glory of the church coming in this age (not the age to come) and little to no talk of tribulation coming upon the church in this age in order to shake off all the pride and religious crud that has accumulated and been encrusted in so much of what is being done in the name of the Lord.

Have we grown tired of tribulation as we wait for the Son of God to come out of heaven to deliver us into His Kingdom that comes to the nations of this earth? Have we decided it is time for us to take things into our own hands, to rise up and fight back? May it not be coming to this! I hear a dangerous aggression within the church today.

Have we, as the church that is still made up of mortal flesh, somehow cleaned up ourselves so we are now worthy of the Kingdom in such a way that we have the right and sanction of heaven to rule the nations? Are we no longer in need of the judgment of God? Are our afflictions, sufferings, trials, and tribulations over simply because we want them to be?

"Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God." (Acts 14:22 NASB)

(14) If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. (15) Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; (16) but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name. (17) For it is time for judgment [krima] to begin with the household [house] of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? (18) AND IF IT IS WITH DIFFICULTY THAT THE RIGHTEOUS IS SAVED, WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE GODLESS MAN AND THE SINNER? (19) Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right. (1 Peter 4:14-19 NASB [KJV])

(30) For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep. (31) But if we judged [diakrino] ourselves rightly, we would not be judged [krino]. (32) But when we are judged [krino], we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world. (1 Corinthians 11:30-32 NASB)

(3) So that no one would be disturbed by these afflictions [thlipsis]; for you yourselves know that we have been destined for this. (4) For indeed when we were with you, we kept telling you in advance that we were going to suffer affliction; and so it came to pass, as you know. (1 Thessalonians 3:3-4 NASB)

(4) Therefore, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions [thlipsis] which you endure. (5) This is a plain indication of God's righteous judgment [krisis] so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering. (2 Thessalonians 1:4-5 NASB)

(32) For God has shut up all in disobedience so that He may show mercy to all. (33) Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments [krima] and unfathomable His ways! (Romans 11:32-33 NASB)

The Greek words for *judgment* and *tribulation* have been inserted to highlight the fact that these verses deal with the same thing.

I realize that the Lord's people need encouragement in these days of much confusion and perplexity and fear over what is about to come upon the face of the earth, but we must not treat God's judgment of the church as if it automatically stops because we are tired of it and want to take the world by storm. Consider how Paul and Barnabas encouraged the disciples.

(21) After they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, (22) strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, "Through many tribulations [thlipsis] we must enter the kingdom of God." (Acts 14:21-22 NASB)

The brethren were encouraged to continue in *the* faith as they faced many tribulations, for in this way, they, meaning all of us who believe, enter the Kingdom of God. Has it changed after 2,000 years as the end of our present wicked age comes into sight?

According to Paul, we do not enter the Kingdom by escaping tribulation but by going through it. In God's judgments [krima], we learn righteousness (Isaiah 26:9). Further, Jesus does not come for His elect until after the tribulation of those days, meaning the last days of our present age.

(29) "But immediately after the tribulation [thlipsis] of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. (30) "And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. (Matthew 24:29-30 NASB)

(24) "But in those days, after that tribulation [thlipsis].... (27) "And then He will send forth the angels, and will gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest end of the earth to the farthest end of heaven. (Mark 13:24, 27 NASB)

Answer this question: Do you see any *major* signs that the church of our day has truly turned from its religious pride? I believe that one of the primary results of judgment of the household of God is to humble God's people. How do we know? Because this was on Peter's heart when he wrote that judgment begins with the house of God: **All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE (1 Peter 5:5 NASB).**

In tribulation, let us humble ourselves as we wait for the **Day of Christ** that starts with resurrection and transfiguration. This is the day of the latter glory.

THE UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God
IN CHRIST JESUS.*

(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

TUC #07-1301

by – Stuart H. Pouliot

January 1, 2013

Wait for It!

As a new year approaches, I seek a word from the Lord for the year. Last year I was impressed with a word from Jeremiah 23:18. See TUC #06-1201 (January 1, 2012). Actually, it was a question: ***Who has stood in the council of the Lord?*** Based on all that transpired during 2012 and continues into 2013, this is an essential question, especially for the Lord's people who seem to be more content with the things of God and doing these things than with the one thing, Christ Jesus our Lord. Of course, in the political realm, it seems quite difficult to find anyone who is truly standing in the council of the Lord as confusion, delusion, and obfuscation are more the norm.

As the year progressed, it seemed to me that many of the at-large "church" thought they could change the outcome of the presidential race simply by putting enough energy and mass into fasting and praying according to 2 Chronicles 7:14. Over and over during this period, I kept hearing: ***"But who has stood in the council of the LORD, that he should see and hear His word? Who has given heed to His word and listened?"***

Well, a fuller discussion of this is reserved for a subsequent issue. By the way, generally the word for each year does not end with the year but continues on. As I have come to learn, we must ***transcend time***, especially in relation to the prophetic. I shared a personal testimony on this in TUC #03-0989 (August 8, 2009).

At 1:08 am on December 5, 2012, I was awakened with the word: ***"Wait for it!"***

Lately, when the Lord has spoken or given a dream, He also has given an interpretation, either immediately or soon thereafter. In this case, I pretty much knew what He was saying and I knew this was the word for 2013.

There are two facets to this word, one not so good and one glorious. The not so good comes from Habakkuk the prophet who appeared on the scene of world history at a time when Judah was about to be judged by the Chaldeans (Babylonians). He saw the condition of his nation and cried out to the Lord who answered him.

Habakkuk: ***(2) Our LORD, how long must I beg for your help before you listen? How long before you save us from all this violence? (3) Why do you make me watch such terrible injustice? Why do you allow violence, lawlessness, crime, and cruelty to spread everywhere?*** (Habakkuk 1:2-3 CEV)

Lord: ***(5) Look and be amazed at what's happening among the nations! Even if you were told, you would never believe what's taking place now. (6) I am sending the Babylonians. They are fierce and cruel—marching across the land, conquering cities and towns.*** (Habakkuk 1:5-6 CEV)

The Lord's plan for Judah was judgment meted out by the hand of the fierce and cruel Babylonians. Distress was coming upon the nation and the Lord told Habakkuk to wait for it; it was set for the appointed time.

For the vision is still for the appointed time, but it breathes to the end, and it does not lie. Though it delays, wait for it, because coming it will come; it will not tarry. (Habakkuk 2:3 LITV)

Dear people of God, do you not feel the same cry in your heart as Habakkuk? Is our day much different? Do you not see and groan over the terrible injustice, lawlessness, and cruelty in our day?

Much could be shared on what the Lord has been revealing to me on this matter, but this will come later. What is important in understanding this word to wait is that we, as a nation and the church, are in the midst of judgment that will only continue to grow in intensity. If I have heard the Lord correctly, America will not turn on its own. Only God can turn back the tide of injustice, violence, and moral declension; in His love, He is going to do it. But to get the heart of His people and the nation to turn and cry out to Him, He is going to bring America into a death the likes of which it has never seen. It will seem as if all hope is lost, but in this hopelessness, the nation will become desperate for help and will finally turn back to God as the Spirit of God convicts hearts and brings true repentance throughout this land. We will realize that we have broken our own national motto, *In God We Trust*. We made a covenant with God but have failed on every level to honor it. ***Wait for it!***

Some people, perhaps many, do not like a word like this, for they see it as too negative. But, as an encouragement, Habakkuk saw beyond the coming distress to see glory, **"for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea"** (Habakkuk 2:14 NASB).

As shared in many other writings, I take great comfort in a word like this, for I know that God's actions are always infused with His glory and love. His ***love never fails***. He is and will be ***all in all new*** as His entire creation is brought into a full expression of ***God is love*** through reconciliation. The cross was and is an absolute 100% success in the reconciliation of all, for He ***reconciles all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven*** (Colossians 1:20 NASB). In case you miss the point, this means the salvation of all, not all at the same time but all eventually, each in their respective order (troop) through Christ, for ***all shall be made alive in Christ*** (1 Corinthians 15:22) and ***at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father*** (Isaiah 45:23; Philippians 2:10-11).

Well, this leads to the second facet of this word to wait; it is the glorious word given to us through Paul the beloved apostle that speaks of the hope of the children of God who are growing up, maturing to be sons of God.

(23) And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. (24) For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? (25) But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. (Romans 8:23-25 ESV)

Paul tells us the creation, which has been subjected to futility, waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God, so that it too will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. Not only does creation groan but ones growing up to be sons groan as well as they wait eagerly for their adoption or placement as sons. But notice to what Paul links this adoption. He links it to the redemption of our bodies. In other words, true sonship comes when we receive spiritual bodies in the image of our Lord Jesus.

John wrote: ***Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is*** (1 John 3:2 KJV). Paul wrote: ***It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body*** (1 Corinthians 15:44 NASB). ***For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself*** (Philippians 3:20-21 NASB).

The spiritual body is an immortal, glorified, celestial body that has been fully conformed, that is, transfigured and transformed (changed from within, born of the seed of God [1 John 3:9]) into the body of His glory, a body that can and will traverse the spirit realm as well as the physical realm, for it is a melding of both realms.

Can you think of anything more glorious? Now, this is something to wait for eagerly even as we wait for the final judgment that is coming upon not only our nation but the nations of the world. Be patient; it won't be long! Though it seems to tarry, it will not delay, for the Father has set an appointed time. Be encouraged!

THE UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
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IN CHRIST JESUS.*

(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

TUC #07-1302

by – Stuart H. Pouliot

January 2, 2013

Impure Hearts, Degrading Passions, Depraved Minds

As we progressed through the month of December 2012, I began to sense in my spirit, through dreams and words from the Lord, that there was much conflict all around. On December 11, 2012, I recorded in my journal: "***Much conflict in the air!***" During this particular night, I dreamed of people running down a street and guns or bombs going off and my wife and I escaping through this conflict. There was much more to the dream and most of it was about evil rising up. Then, three days later, on December 14, 2012, 20 children and 6 adults were massacred at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut (total of 28 died).

As most normal people reacted, I too felt deeply for the many families and friends that were traumatized by this great loss. However, I woke the next day with a different type of groan within my spirit, so I inquired of the Lord to understand what was the nature or meaning of this groaning. Without delay, the Lord spoke to me.

"There is great deception in the world today. I have ordained it because man's heart has turned from Me. Man has exchanged the truth of God for a lie; therefore, I have turned their hearts over to impurity. I have sent a deluding influence so they will believe what is false. They have not seen fit to acknowledge me any longer, so I have given them over to a depraved mind. The church has exchanged the truth of God for the things of God and has lost the preeminence of Christ."

I needed no interpretation of these words, for they are from scripture, specifically, Romans 1:18-32 and 2 Thessalonians 2:11.

After the massacre, the reaction of America, especially the reaction of the politicians and the media, was quite telling. Most all comments and calls for action were focused, and still are, on treating the symptoms: controlling or banning guns, placing armed guards in every school, and beefing up mental health intervention, to name a few. But hardly anyone cried out that we need to repent and turn to God, for He alone is our answer to reversing the great decline of our nation.

On the political front, only one well-known polarizing figure actually pointed to God as the answer. There may have been others, but if they did speak out, their voices were either ignored by the media or drowned out by a cacophony of voices of humanistic intelligence and reason.

On the church level, the Laodicean church sees all the other churches on opposite street corners as Laodicean and fails to look into the Laodicean mirror of their own heart.

On the individual front, it seems that most people look at the other guy as the problem and fail to look into the worldly mirror of their own heart.

This is where we are today as a nation. We have self-righteousness on all levels and few are looking for the righteousness of God, which, of course, only comes through faith in the Son of God. We are an unrighteous nation that refuses to turn to God. The fact of the matter is that we are living out what Paul wrote in Romans 1. Commentary has been inserted to make the point.

(18) For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, (19) because that which is known about God is evident within them; for

God made it evident to them. **[All are without excuse; no one will be able to say to God "I didn't know that."]** (20) For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. (21) For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. **[Where are our national leaders who stand before the people to honor and thank God? We have a Christian foundation and many of our leaders consider themselves Christians.]** (22) Professing to be wise, they became fools, (23) and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. **[Instead of creatures, we worship our technology, including our military might, and are ruled by it along with its massive social media.]** (24) Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. (25) For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. **[What is the lie? We don't need God to tell us how to run our nation. Again, we worship our technology along with a myriad of other things like sports, entertainment, politics etc.]** (26) For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, (27) and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. **[Is not the passage of same sex marriage and the exaltation of gay rights and abortion a sign of this degrading passion?]** (28) And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer **[Politicians don't stand before the people to declare that our only hope is in God; instead they turn to more legislation, such as gun control, that only props up their agenda.],** God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, (29) being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed **[Wall Street, bailouts, banksters, politicians],** evil; full of envy, murder **[Nearly a million abortions a year; the President advocates third-trimester abortions and forcing everyone to pay for them],** strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips **[the present-day media along with all their commentators and so-called experts on everything from A to Z.],** (30) slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents **[To the point of killing their parents],** (31) without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; (32) and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them. (Romans 1:18-32 NASB)

Many other things could be added to these verses, but you get the point. Our nation knows the ordinance of God, but we are in denial. The Greek word for *ordinance* is also translated as *judgment, justice, or righteousness*.

Hurricane Irene (2011), Hurricane Sandy, and the Sandy Hook massacre all occurred as traumatic events in the same general region of the US. In the days leading up to each of these events, I was given dreams or words that indicated something was coming. With Irene, I was told that something was going to happen in the southeast, and two days later it was announced that Irene had formed into a tropical storm headed for the southeast Bahamas. Twelve hours before Sandy formed I had a dream of a major storm that involved snow and major power outages and heard: **"Storms are coming; they are already here."** Then, two days before Sandy Hook, I dreamed and sensed much conflict in the air. Interestingly, there were about 46 days between Hurricane Sandy hitting the region and the Sandy Hook massacre. In biblical numerology, the number **46** signifies *Herod's temple* and *man without the Holy Spirit*. Herod killed male babies in an attempt to stop the man-child Christ from coming forth. We are at the point in history when the powers of darkness are at work in an attempt to stop the man-child, the first fruits anointed conquerors of Christ, from coming forth. But nothing stops God, for He has set the appointed time. When a nation is without the Spirit of God at work in their hearts, they exchange the truth of God for the lie that they do not need God in their daily lives and governance, and they no longer see fit to acknowledge God. The result is impurity of heart, degrading passions, and depraved minds, and we all as a nation pay a steep price for this. God's judgment is upon us. But, please keep this one thought in mind at all times: **it is not for our ultimate destruction but for our ultimate glory.** It is time to wake up, repent, and seek God with our whole heart. It is time to acknowledge the Creator and Sovereign of all things through whom we all exist and are upheld by His love and for His glory. Now is the time!

THE UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
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IN CHRIST JESUS.*

(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

TUC #07-1303

by – Stuart H. Pouliot

January 5, 2013

Stripping Away the Religious Façade #1

Last year I had much to write but felt restrained to do so. Lord willing, I will catch up on some thoughts that are carryovers from 2012. One carryover involved the November 2012 presidential election.

Leading up to the election, there were many in the at-large church who felt called to fast and pray for the nation along the lines of 2 Chronicles 7:14. Some called it a new movement where the church was being called into action as it had not been for quite some time. Some were saying that it was time for the church to be militant (mind you, not in physical violence); it was not about standing and seeing the salvation of the Lord but a call to get involved. The call went forth that we must reverse the evil course our nation is on. Some cried that we must take back the nation. Out of this so-called movement there were those who prophesied that Romney would win and the nation would enter a time of great prosperity, even with the wealth of the nations coming to the church. Well, so much for that prophecy.

Personally, I did not feel led to participate in this fasting and praying. Surely, it is scriptural to humble ourselves before God and fast, pray, and repent of our ways. If there was ever a time in our history for humility and repentance, it is now.

Nevertheless, I had little witness in my spirit to join this movement. It seemed like so many other religious things the church does these days. It is as if many in the at-large-church believe if we put enough mass and energy into or against something that this alone will change the course of history, as if we can force heaven to move on our behalf to give us what we want or think we need. For many, this is called *intercession*, but I call it a *religious exercise*.

True intercession is not about changing things; it is about lining up with the heart of God, knowing the times in which we live and what God is doing and how He intends to bring it about. It is all about knowing God's ultimate purpose and His plan to accomplish it. Once we know the plan of God or at least have some understanding of it, even if it is sketchy or in outline form with much detail missing, we stand with God that His will is being done on earth as it is in heaven. Simply, we line up our will and vision with God's will and vision.

Another way of defining *intercession* is simply seeing and hearing what God is saying in these days and lining up with His word. As shared in the first issue for this year, the word I was given for 2012 and beyond is based on Jeremiah 23:18.

(16) Thus says the LORD of hosts, "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who are prophesying to you. They are leading you into futility; they speak a vision of their own imagination, not from the mouth of the LORD. (17) "They keep saying to those who despise Me, 'The LORD has said, "You will have peace"; and as for everyone who walks in the stubbornness of his own heart, they say, 'Calamity will not come upon you.' (18) "But who has stood in the council of the LORD, that he should see [perceive] and hear His word? Who has given heed to His word and listened? (Jeremiah 23:16-18 NASB)

During 2012, this one question kept coming to my mind as I listened to and read what many were discussing and praying in relation to the national election and the state of affairs in America. But who is standing in the council of the Lord? Who is seeing or perceiving and hearing His word? In other words, who is hearing from God? Who is looking through the hype and religious fervor to understand what God is up to in these last days? What is His

purpose and plan? It is one thing to look at the state of affairs and see how dismal it all is and to see that wickedness and injustice abound, but what is God saying, what is He doing, why is He doing it?

More is shared on Jeremiah 23:18 in article #36, January 2012, *Who Has Stood in the Council of the Lord?*

Leading up to Election Day, it seemed that many Christians truly thought they had hit the mark in prayer and that God was going to give the election to Romney who was far more righteous than the man presently occupying the office. After all, how could God allow a man to remain in office who supports late-term abortions, which is infanticide, and wants all of us to pay for it? As noted earlier, the prophecies were going forth that God was going to put the more righteous man into office. It sort of reminds me of Habakkuk's cry to the Lord as the Chaldeans were being raised up to judge Judah: **"Why are You silent when the wicked swallow up those more righteous than they?"** (Habakkuk 1:13).

I was not totally sure of the outcome of the national election, but I knew what the Lord had spoken to me on September 10, 2009. I heard: **"The tea party will fail; Obama will rule."** Notice that the word was not that he would govern or win but that he will rule. Ruling is a much more onerous word for a republic form of government. Ruling is reserved for kings and monarchs who make decrees and, in many cases, are the law. This is not the form of government that our founding fathers established. Much could be said about Obama ruling, such as his propensity for executive orders and *Obamacare*, but this is not the purpose of this issue. The fact of the matter is that the tea party movement does seem to be losing as Obama has racked up many wins, including the latest increase in taxes.

So, when Obama won reelection, I was not surprised. Actually, by Election Day, I expected him to win by at least 1%.

What was a surprise was the reaction from many Christians that ran from anger to stun to disbelief to near-depression. I saw it in an entirely different light. It was and still is the will of God being manifested as He continues His plan that will bring our present wicked age to an end. Further, I saw the election result as God's way of answering the many prayers that had been offered up. Through the result, He was, and we can trust He still is, humbling His people and bringing them into true repentance, not based on a movement of men doing religious things but a change of heart that comes from crying out to the Lord to be in His council to see and know His word.

On one level, the many prayers that sought for a change of leadership seem to have failed. Yet, on another level, the many prayers have not failed, for God heard the great outcry that repeated the Lord's word to Solomon: ***If My people who call upon My name humble themselves.*** Surely, many called upon His name but, perhaps, true humility is yet elusive. There is great danger in telling the Laodicean church it is time to be militant. It builds up pride not humility, especially when the heart of the church is not ready to truly repent in humility. The election result was as much a judgment on the church as it was on the nation. It is about stripping the façade off the religious church and exposing her heart that the Lord is after and will get to His glory.

This may seem to be a harsh conclusion to some, but it is based on things that were said after the election. Some said that the country made its choice and has set its course. It was not God's will; it was the people's fault based on their "free will." A level of humility seemed to be missing, saying something like this: "Lord, where did we go wrong? Search our hearts and see what offensive ways are within us." Where was the brokenness that leads to true humility? Some tried to put a good spin on it by pointing out how many Christians came together for prayer and how they cried out to the Lord in ways they had never done before. So what? Football stadiums can be filled with Christians given the right venue.

I leave you with a word from Habakkuk who faced a similar time as ours. **"But the LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before Him"** (Habakkuk 2:20). We are the holy temple of the Lord. Perhaps, it is time for us to be silent in the temple, coming into His council to see and hear His word, letting the Lord speak to our hearts. It is not about movements or a mass of energy or momentum or militancy; it is about hearts in union with the very heart of ***God is love.*** To be continued....

THE UPWARD CALL

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IN CHRIST JESUS.*

(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

TUC #07-1304

by – Stuart H. Pouliot

January 6, 2013

Stripping Away the Religious Façade #2

In the last issue, it was mentioned that the Lord is stripping the façade off the religious church and exposing her heart that the Lord is after and will get to His glory. One of the definitions of the word **façade** is "**the front part of anything: often used figuratively, with implications of an imposing appearance concealing something inferior.**" This is the intended meaning used in this issue. It implies that there is an appearance to the at-large church that conceals something inferior, something that does not answer to the heart of God. It is a façade that has the appearance of being spiritual and doing many great spiritual things for God, and yet, it is simply a mask for religion; it is a religious façade.

The term *at-large church* is purposely used to differentiate it from the church that Christ is building. There is a difference, if not a great divide, between the two. Another way to differentiate the two is one is the visible organized, denominated, institutional church with buildings, names, ministries, departments, etc, and the other is simply an organic body of believers being built up in love with only one name over them and one Man among them. This is not to imply that the organic body does not and cannot exist within the organized, institutional church. Obviously, it can and, when it does, to use a phrase from Frank Bartleman, it is **the church within the church** or, we could say, the remnant church within the at-large church.

Click on the tab for "Oldies" to read past issues along this line.

What is the true church?

It is born-from-above believers in living union with the risen Lord.

It is not a religious institution, a special set-apart organization that is called the *Church* and that does many religious things for God. This is how the world so often views it, but this is because this is how the at-large church often presents itself to the world. Men have expended great energy and resources building an institutional church based on a systematic theology or emphasis or program or ministry and with a name or label on it that differentiates it from all other institutional churches. Over time, the institution protects and defends itself and ceases to be in union with the risen Lord, if it was ever in union in the first place.

John was given a picture of the condition of the last-days church. It is called the Harlot Church, Mystery Babylon that thinks it is rich and in need of nothing but is impoverished, blind, and naked. This harlot is about to be taken through the fiery judgment of God, and all that are a part of it must come out of it if they are to avoid the fire of its judgment.

Where two or three are gathered together in the name of Christ, meaning they are in living union with Christ, there Christ is in their midst. But let us not overlook the great fact that this Christ is the risen Lord who has overcome sin and death and the world and the devil. This Christ is within every born-from-above believer; it is **Christ in you, the hope of glory**. This is all so simple and fundamental and yet so profound.

Do you realize that heaven and earth are united in Christ? Heaven and earth are one in Christ. As Stephen was about to be stoned, he saw the Son of Man standing in glory in heaven. Stephen was full of the Holy Spirit, which is the Spirit of Christ. For all of us who believe, **God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts** (Galatians 4:6). **The Lord is the Spirit** (2 Corinthians 3:17). The risen Christ is in heaven and He is in our hearts, meaning we

are seated with Christ in the heavenlies (Ephesians 2:6) and heaven is in our hearts. We are in resurrection union with the Son of Man; all that He is and has is ours and **we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved (loves) us** (Romans 8:37). We are an embodiment of heaven on earth in the Son of Man, and the power of His resurrection life is available to us and in us. This is truly good news.

Well, much more could be said about the church, but this is not the point at hand. The point is that God is going to strip away the façade of this religious church system and bring it through the fire of His judgment to purge it from all its outward form and man-centered activity. Although some activity might be well-meaning, nevertheless, it misses the mark as it does not answer to the heart of God and the character of the true church out of heaven. Only that which is in union with the risen Lord will remain when the fire of His judgment has completed its purging and cleansing work.

Regarding the November election, when the results came in, I was somewhat elated over the outcome, much to the chagrin of others around me, for it meant that God is dealing with the church just as much as He is dealing with the nation. In other words, He is judging both, perhaps in different ways, yet judgment nonetheless. My sensing is that the church is too proud and arrogant and, frankly, the notion of becoming militant is misplaced. We need brokenness that leads to true humility and repentance, and only God knows how to get us there.

Dear people of God, fiery trials or judgments that upset the religious pride of the church are essential, especially as the end of this age nears. As the righteous Judge, God must cleanse His own people, even as He judges the nations. The fire of His word is going forth! It is for our good!

What is the purpose of God's judgment? Is it for destruction or annihilation? No! It is for purification. His judgments are often called fiery trials and He brings these upon His people and nations with a glorious purpose in mind. He is after hearts that have been purified so that they can and will maintain union with the risen Lord in all the fullness that this entails. It is so the true church of conquerors will rise up and come forward to take the glory of the Lord to the nations. It is so heaven can truly come to earth, not only in a people but also be manifested among and in the nations of the world. It is so His Son will be exalted among the nations. It is so **the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea** (Habakkuk 2:14).

It is time for the Lord's people to stop trying to do things for God and for themselves in the name of the Lord and start being. It is not about doing; it is about being Christ in the world. It is time to seek the council of the Lord and to come into union with Him so that we personally hear His voice and stop listening to the many "pulpit" voices; and out from this, we live His life, not our life or the organized life of an institution. It is about being Christ, being His life in this earth, being His aroma wherever we go, being His voice, being His love, being His grace and mercy, being His righteousness. Out of this being comes the works of God in doing the will of God.

"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by [the] faith in [of] the Son of God, who loved [loves] me and gave Himself up for me." (Galatians 2:20 NASB [DNT])

(15) But when God, who had set me apart even from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, was pleased (16) to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood, (17) nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went away to Arabia, and returned once more to Damascus. (Galatians 1:15-17 NASB)

(3) For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (4) When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. (Colossians 3:3-4 NASB)

Has God revealed His Son in you? Then, let Him BE in you and BE out from you! If we truly come into this place in a living, vibrant way, I believe we will discover that it is not time to fight by raising our voices in protest; it is time to lay down our lives in love. **Love never fails!**