

The Upward Call

[A Periodical]

Volume #08-14

2014

by

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The following contains
The Upward Call
Periodicals issued in 2014

ABBREVIATIONS OF SCRIPTURE VERSIONS

ALT	Analytical-Literal Translation (2001)
ASV	American Standard Version (1901)
CV	Concordant Version (1926, 1983)
KJV	King James Version
NASB	New American Standard Bible (1960, 2002)
REB	Rotherham's Emphasized Bible (1959, 1994)
WNT	Weymouth's New Testament in Modern Speech (1912)
YLT	Young's Literal Translation of the Holy Bible (1898)
BBE	Bible in Basic English (1965)
BTCB	Bullinger's The Companion Bible (1922)
CEV	Contemporary English Version
CJB	Complete Jewish Bible (1998)
DNT	Darby New Translation (1899)
ESV	English Standard Version (2001)
GB	Geneva Bible (1599)
GW	God's Word
HCSB	Holman Christian Standard Bible
HNV	Hebrew Names Bible
ISV	International Standard Version
JBP	Phillips' The New Testament in Modern English (1958)
JMT	James Moffatt Translation
JPS	Jewish Publication Society Bible (1917)
LITV	Literal Translation of the Holy Bible (1976, 2001)
MKJV	Modern King James Version (1962, 1998)
MNT	Murdock's New Testament
NIV	New International Version (1973, 1984)
NKJV	New King James Version (1979, 1999)
TCNT	Twentieth Century New Testament (1904)
TSS	The Sacred Scriptures (1981)
TT	Tyndale's Translation (1530)
WAET	Wuest's The New Testament—An Expanded Translation (1961)
WEB	Webster Bible (1833)

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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 #08-1401

by – Stuart H. Pouliot

January 1, 2014

Thoughts on 2014

The last issue offered some thoughts about 2013. After posting it, a survey came out sensing the pulse of America regarding the year 2013: 54% said it was a bad year, 15 % a very bad year, 29% a good year, and 3% a very good year. We might say that **nearly 70% of Americans are sour on this past year**. To be sure, the reasons vary among individuals, but regardless, it suggests unhappiness in the general population. The question is: Do we have any reason to be happy in these days? The answer depends on where one's faith resides. If it resides in a person, that is, **the Person of the Lord Jesus, the Savior of the world and the King of all kings**, then there is much to rejoice in, **for He is coming to judge the world in righteousness** (Psalm 96:13), and **by His judgments the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness** (Isaiah 26:9). This is good news; even more so, it is great news.

So, here we are in a new year, 2014. Do we have a reason, other than Jesus, to be happy about this year and what we might face? Perhaps, not! For this reason, we must keep our eyes fixed on Him and set our minds above where He is seated at the right hand of God the Father, 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. God put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the ecclesia, which is His body, the Complement of the One completing the all in all (Colossians 3:1-2; Ephesians 1:20-23). It is not about us; it is about Him, that is, about Jesus Christ, the Anointed One, the Son of God and the Son of Man who is coming to rule, not just in the hearts of His people as He does today but to literally rule over the nations as they come to acknowledge Him as God's King. So, look up, our *full* redemption and salvation is near. Let us hold fast in the faith of the Son, for He is coming.

Well, this is encouraging news, but it does not answer the question of what type of year to expect. On one level, the answer is that I really do not know, at least, as far as the specific details are concerned. On another level, starting in 2007, the Lord has given me a word for each year. The word for 2013 was: "**Wait For it!**" For 2014, the word is: "**Tumult is coming!**" This will be shared in a subsequent issue. However, in this issue, I want to answer the question on yet another level, something that I have done in several writings going back at last five years.

In past publications, I have speculated that beginning in the year 2000, the world entered into a **21-year cycle broken down into three 7-year cycles**. I likened it to **Jacob's distress**. I continue to offer this possibility, but now call it *spiritual intuition*, a hunch, rather than *speculation*. Perhaps, this is one step up on the rung of becoming reality, but it is not quite there. If this is true, soon we will enter the last 7-year cycle leading up to the years **2021-2022**. Lord willing, an article will be posted this year that explains why in greater detail, but until then, here is the capsule version.

First, I believe we need to adjust our thinking as to when the year starts by looking at events from **September to September** in order to line up with the Hebrew fall feasts. Jesus fulfilled the spring feasts to the letter and the day for His first coming, and there is every reason to expect Him to do likewise with the fall feasts for His second coming. Only this time, He is coming to meet His people (Christians) that are the true Jews and spiritual Israel, that is, the ecclesia, which is the Body of Christ. Besides, looking back on the last 13 years, it is clear that two of the most traumatic events so far in the third millennia occurred in September, notably, the **September 11, 2001 attack on and destruction of the twin World Trade Center Towers**, and the **September 2008 global financial meltdown**. Of course, there were other great events, notably, the **December 26, 2004, Indonesian 9.2 quake-tsunami**, killing over 230,000 people in 14 countries, and the **March 11, 2011, Tohoku-Japan 9.0 quake-tsunami**, killing over 18, 500 people and **melting down a nuclear reactor**; an ongoing disaster.

Second, the 7-year cycles go like this: 2000 to 2007, 2007 to 2014, and 2014 to 2021, **or** 2001 to 2008, 2008 to 2015, and 2015 to 2022. With September as the start point, there is overlap with our normal calendar year; thus, the cycles may best be viewed as **2000/2001**, **2007/2008**, and **2014/2015**, with an endpoint of **2021/2022**.

Third, there seems to be a pattern to these cycles. They start with fear and dire warnings that lead to an event that may or may not relate to the initial warnings. In addition, monumental natural disasters have occurred on the heels of manmade disasters. In **1999**, there was great fear and dire predictions about **Y2K**, which never materialized, in spite of all the hype. But, in **2001**, America was shocked by **the attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon**. This one event led to **two major wars** in which many Americans, as well as citizens of the worn-torn countries, were either killed or maimed. A little over three years later (**2004**), the world experienced one of the worst natural disasters in modern-day history with the **Indonesian quake-tsunami**. Take note; the citizens of 90 countries were killed in the 9/11/01 attack, and citizens of 14 countries were killed in the natural disaster, both signifying global disasters. Then, in **2007**, dire warnings began to surface about various sectors of **the economy and financial institutions**. The next year, in **2008**, the entire **global financial system and economy** was brought to the brink of total collapse and continues to sit on the precipice of collapse. It was and yet will be a **global meltdown**, as this story continues to unfold. Then, less than three years later, in **2011**, the world experienced another one of the worst disasters in modern-day history with the **Great East Japan (Tohoku) quake-tsunami** and the subsequent **meltdown of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear reactor**. Although not reported much in the American press, the potential threat for catastrophic release of radiation throughout the globe continues, and this does not address what has already been released and its effects on the Japanese population and oceanic food supply. The final chapter of this disaster has not been written. Also, take note that **a nuclear meltdown occurred on the heels of a financial meltdown and both have global ramifications**. By the way, based on an event I saw in a dream that actually occurred prior to the 2011 quake-tsunami, I believe this disaster has great impact on both Japan and America that will manifest in the future.

Fourth, much like the year 2007, throughout 2013, we heard dire warnings about impending financial doom, especially for Europe and America, which did not come about as predicted by many. If these cycles hold, then it is proposed that between 2014 and 2015, particularly September of either year, the world will experience another unprecedented event or series of events, and this (these) will precipitate the last 7 years of the third cycle, which I believe will be the worst of the three leading up to September, 2021. We can only speculate about the specifics. However, we can be assured it will come, and it will be major. In addition, we should not be surprised if a great natural disaster occurs within the first three years of this cycle. **TUMULT IS ON THE HORIZON!**

Fifth, why 21 years? Jacob experienced two periods of 21 years that constitute his times of distress or affliction. The first 21 years occurred as he toiled for Laban as the price to have Rachel. The second 21 years occurred as he was separated from his beloved Joseph whom he thought was dead. **"Surely I will go down to Sheol mourning for my son"** (Genesis 37:35). His mourning turned into joy when he learned that his son was alive and well and was administering the affairs of Egypt. Joseph, the holder of the birthright, is a type of Christ, the Firstborn of all creation (Colossians 1:15), especially in light of His second coming, since the firstborn has the right of inheritance (Psalm 2) and both had or have tunics/robes dipped in blood (Genesis 37:31; Revelation 19:13).

Sixth, why the year 2021? Admittedly this falls in the category of subjective, but I had a dream on June 26, 2003 that revealed something related to the coming of the Lord will occur on a Wednesday, September 8. This combination occurred in 2004 and 2010; the next and last one in my lifetime that lines up with the fall feasts is 2021. In 2021, this day is Tishri 2 or the second day of the Feast of Trumpets. I have explained this in other writings; Lord willing, it will be repeated in detail in the article I mentioned earlier. Further, the 23rd day of the 2021 fall feasts occurs on September 29th, which is the date of Jesus' birth. On the 23rd day, Solomon sent the people out rejoicing. A sign of the coming Kingdom?

Seventh, what can we expect in 2014? The warnings will continue and disruptive things will happen, pretty much as we saw in 2013 but, most likely, with greater intensity. Keep an eye on February and July for some further indication, with an especially watchful eye on September. Based on the overlap of the cycles, my only caveat is that September, 2015 could be more interesting than September, 2014. At any rate: **Come, Lord Jesus!**

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IN CHRIST JESUS.*

(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

TUC #08-1402

by – Stuart H. Pouliot

January 5, 2014

2014: Tumult is Coming!

As a new year approaches, I seek a word from the Lord for the year, and the Lord has been faithful to give words for each year, stretching back to 2007 when I first began inquiring for such a thing. I believe that the Lord is the one who put this desire in my heart in the first place. During these years, I have come to understand that the word given is not just for that particular year but for subsequent ones as well. We need to transcend time, meaning we need to look out beyond our most immediate horizon. When God speaks a word, it might seem like it is for that very moment when it is actually either progressing along or waiting for the future. I have had personal experience on this front. Of course, the ancient prophets faced this dilemma all the time.

Clearly, the word for 2013 fell into this category, for it was: **Wait for It!** You are encouraged to go to this link and read what was written about this word.

<http://www.kingdomandglory.com/tuc/tuc572.pdf>

I did not expect the *it* to be in 2013; I continue to believe that it is coming and that an extension of this word is the word for 2014, which is: "**Tumult is Coming!**" We are waiting for tumult.

This word came to me rather unexpectedly as my thoughts were focused on something entirely different. The word came exactly at 12 pm on December 15, 2014. When I heard it, I immediately asked the Lord if this was a word from Him and if it were for 2014. The answer came immediately: "Yes!"

Interestingly, this is not the first time that I have heard this word. During July 2008, the Lord not only gave me a word about **tumult**, but He reinforced it by preceding it with a **humming sound** that I heard all night long on **July 5, 2008**. Two months later, in **September 2008, the entire financial system of America was in tumult**; it was in an uproar. Please check out this link for what was written about this.

<http://www.kingdomandglory.com/tuc/tuc89.pdf>

So, here we are over five years later and tumult is coming once again. Perhaps, it never stopped, only ebbed and flowed. As shared in the last issue on 2014, I believe we are moving into the last of three 7-year cycles of distress that will be consummated in the years 2021-2022. Further, the month of September seems to be the starting point for these cycles as they are punctuated by major events. There is so much to share about this that I must reserve it for an article that, Lord willing, will be out between now and the end of February.

Periodically, I am asked why I share these things; after all, "There is nothing we can do with them." Really? How about rejoicing for your redemption draws near? How about making straight the way of the Lord, for He is coming? How about the earth being silent before Him, for the Lord is in His holy temple? How about standing in His council to hear and see His word in this last hour rather than listening to the pulpiteers of Laodicea? How about the church stopping all its craziness and acting like a three-ringed circus, supposedly, in the name of the Lord? How about do not be conformed to the world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind? How about returning to the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ?

Some might think I am a bit too critical of the church, and I readily admit that at times I am. But, to be clear, what I am critical of is what man is building in the name of the Lord and calling it the *church*. What I am *not critical* of is

what Christ is building: **"I will build My church."** Most assuredly, He is building, but it is a building of hearts and minds that know Him and His Father, which is true *eonian* life (*aka* eternal life). As Paul wrote: **So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in [the] Spirit** (Ephesians 2:19-22 NASB). This is the true church!

I've got news for you. God is not after a show of entertainment or of men building great ministries or mega-churches. He is after hearts, and He is going to get them, even if it takes tumult and His fiery word to do so. Don't for a minute think that, what most call the church or what I call the at-large or visible church, is immune from tumult. Much of the visible church is simply a caricature of the world, and, when this is shaken, there will be tumult. However, as will be shared in the next issue, there is good news in this as well.

But, let us consider this on a global level. Praise God; He so loves the world that He will do all that is necessary to turn hearts back to Him. **God is love** crushed His Son, and **love never fails**. The Son of God's love died for the sin of the world and absolutely nothing can nor will stand in the way of God expressing His love to all mankind. Love conquers all, and **God is love** will conquer all, even through tumult.

Now, what does *tumult is coming* mean? On a definitional level, according to *Webster's New World Dictionary* *tumult* is "a swelling or surging up, 1. noisy commotion, as of a crowd; uproar. 2. confusion; agitation; disturbance. 3. great emotional disturbance; agitation of mind or feeling." This gives us the sense that *tumult* is a response to something, meaning people are, most likely, in an emotional uproar over some event. In the context of the 2014 word, I believe this speaks of the collapse of global manmade structures that have been built outside the perfect will of God; they are man's doing and not the Lord's. They are the things created (by man) that can be shaken. They are not of the character and quality of the Kingdom that cannot be shaken. In fact, they are counterfeits to God's Kingdom, and His true spiritual church (called-out ones), and His true spiritual Israel.

As early as 1995 and then in 1999, without directly using the word, the Lord began speaking to me about tumult coming. He told me the structures of the world would crumble, and then He told me that great cataclysmic upheaval is coming. These are only two of many such warnings. For more on this, please see the following links.

<http://www.kingdomandglory.com/tuc/tuc408.pdf> <http://www.kingdomandglory.com/tuc/tuc563.pdf>

<http://www.kingdomandglory.com/tuc/tuc564.pdf>

When I heard tumult is coming as the word for 2014, I inquired of the Lord for a scripture and this is what came to me: **For the LORD is going to destroy Babylon, and He will make her loud noise vanish from her. And their waves will roar like many waters; the tumult of their voices sounds forth** (Jeremiah 51:55 NASB).

Clearly, Judah was under God's judgment under the iron yoke of the Babylonians, but, in the midst of this, Jeremiah was encouraged that eventually the Lord would judge the ones He raised up to judge them. Fast forward to Revelation as we discover John prophesying about the fall of Mystery Babylon, the great harlot that sits upon the many waters (i.e., peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues). **All the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her immorality** (Revelation 18:3), and they will be in tumult, for judgment is coming upon **the great city, Babylon, the strong city! For in one hour your judgment has come!** (Revelation 18:10). It is the fall of Mystery Babylon that will set free the many waters.

Tumult is coming is an uproar over the fall of the world system that has the many waters in bondage to its corruption and immorality and greed. As our present Babylonian system begins to fall, those who thrived in this system, even ran it at the expense of the many, will mourn for their great loss. Everything that can be shaken will be shaken. But rejoice, for we receive a Kingdom that cannot be shaken. **God's King is coming on the heels of tumult!** It may take another seven years or it may happen this year; be assured, it is coming to the glory of God. More on tumult in the next issues...

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IN CHRIST JESUS.*

(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

TUC #08-1403

by – Stuart H. Pouliot

January 6, 2014

2014: The Sound of a Tumult!

The last issue dealt with the word for 2014 that tumult is coming. This issue continues along this line with the message being that tumult has both positive and negative implications.

At its core, the word *tumult* means "a swelling or surging up," something that is similar to a raging sea where the waves are surging forth and creating great swells. In regards to people, it is likened to an uproar coming forth from a noisy commotion, as of a crowd, and speaks of confusion, agitation, disturbance of mind or feeling. As shared previously, I first heard a humming sound (a hum) and then the Lord reinforced it or, rather, explained it by telling me *tumult is coming*, and it did come. The definitions and the transliterated spellings of the Hebrew words make the connection between a hum and tumult. It is a noise associated with agitation, uproar, murmur, crying, etc. Something occurs to bring out great emotional disturbances.

According to *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*, one of the primary Hebrew root words for *tumult* is **hamah [H1993]**, which means "to make a loud sound (like the English "hum"); by implication to be in great commotion or tumult, to rage, war, moan, clamor." *Brown-Driver-Brigg's Hebrew Definitions* (BBD) defines *hamah* as "to murmur, growl, roar, cry aloud, mourn, rage, sound, make noise, tumult, be clamorous, be disquieted, be loud, be moved, be troubled, be in uproar." A search of scripture reveals that all these words or phrases are used to translate this Hebrew word as discovered in 1 Kings 1:41; Psalm 39:6; 42:5, 11; 43:5; 46:3, 6; 55:17; 59:6, 14; 77:3; 83:2; Proverbs 1:21; 7:11; 9:13; 20:1; Isaiah 16:11; 17:12; 22:2; 51:15; 59:11; Jeremiah 4:19; 5:22; 6:23; 31:20, 35; 48:36; 50:42; 51:55; Ezekiel 7:16; Zechariah 9:15. Derived from *hamah* is the word **hamon [H1995]**, which means "a noise, tumult, crowd; also disquietude, wealth: - abundance, company, many, multitude, multiply, noise, riches, rumbling, sounding, store, tumult" (*Strong's*), and is discovered in 2 Samuel 18:29; Job 39:7; Psalm 65:7; Isaiah 13:4; 33:3; Jeremiah 3:23; 10:13; 51:16; Daniel 10:6.

The other primary Hebrew root word for *tumult* is **hum (hoom) [H1949]**, which means "to make an uproar, or agitate greatly: - destroy, move, make a noise, put, ring again" (*Strong's*), and is discovered in Deuteronomy 7:23; 1 Samuel 4:5; 1 Kings 1:45; Psalm 55:2; Micah 2:12. Derived from *hum* is the word **mehumah [H4103]**, which means "tumult, confusion, uproar, discomfiture, destruction, trouble, vexed, or vexation," and is discovered in Deuteronomy 7:23; 1 Samuel 5:9, 11; 14:20; 28:20; 2 Chronicles 15:5; Proverbs 15:16; Isaiah 22:5; Ezekiel 7:7; 22:5; Amos 3:9; Zechariah 14:13.

To round this out, there are other Hebrew words translated into the word *tumult*, such as **shaon [H7588]** (e.g., Amos 2:2; Jeremiah 51:55), meaning "uproar (as of rushing)."

Now, let us consider some verses that contain these words, recognizing that, among the many translations, words other than *tumult* are used for the same Hebrew words.

My bowels, my bowels! I am pained at my very heart; my heart maketh a noise [H1993; hamah] in me; I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war. (Jeremiah 4:19 Webster)

(6) "Surely every man walks about as a phantom; surely they make an uproar [H1993; hamah] for nothing; he amasses riches and does not know who will gather them. (7) "And now, Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in You." (Psalm 39:6-7 NASB)

Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed [H1993; *hamah*] within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him for the help of His presence. (Psalm 42:5 NASB)

In these three verses, we discover that the disturbance or tumult was within the soul of the Lord's people. Jeremiah's soul lamented over Judah's devastation. David despaired over what he was experiencing in the presence of the wicked, and, in this despair, he saw man as a mere breath even though he walks around making an uproar or tumult. This should remind us of Psalm 2: **Why are the nations in an uproar?** The Hebrew word used here is *ragash*, which means "to be tumultuous." Those of the spirit of Mystery Babylon are amassers of great riches, but their day of tumult is coming. Our souls might be in an uproar, that is, in tumult, as our present-day Babylonian system falls, but we must be like David: Why despair, O my soul. My hope is in the Lord Jesus, the King of kings who is coming to establish His iron rule over the nations.

When He utters His voice, there is a tumult [H1995; *hamon*] of waters in the heavens, and He causes the clouds to ascend from the end of the earth; He makes lightning for the rain, and brings out the wind from His storehouses. (Jeremiah 10:13 NASB)

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His body also was like beryl, his face had the appearance of lightning, his eyes were like flaming torches, his arms and feet like the gleam of polished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a tumult [H1995; *hamon*]. (Daniel 10:6 NASB)

Personally, I like these verses, for they speak of the mighty voice of the Lord. When He utters His voice, there is tumult; even the sound of His word is likened to tumult. Great change comes in the heavens above and on the earth below. Dear people of God, as the Day approaches for the Word of God in the form of God's Son to manifest Himself upon the earth among the nations, there will be tumult. The good news is that this tumult is a sign of His coming. O, soul, why be in despair, for our Lord and Savior comes. Christ who is our life is our hope or expectation, for we will be with Him in glory (1 Timothy 1:1; 2 Timothy 1:1; Colossians 3:4).

I will, surely assemble, O Jacob, all of thee, I will, surely gather, the remnant of Israel, at once, will I make them like sheep in distress,—like a flock in the midst of its pasture, shall they hum [H1949; *hum*] with men.... (Micah 2:12 Rotherham)

This is the only translation I could find that uses the word *hum* for H1949. This is a wonderful verse of restoration. According to Micah, judgment was coming upon Israel and Judah and all would suffer, even those who suffered at the hands of the wicked. Their wounds were incurable, and God's people had arisen as His enemy. But in the midst of this dire prophecy, Micah is given a word of encouragement that the Lord will gather together a remnant of His people, and the flock or pasture will hum with men. Some translations state: They will be noisy with men.

It is sort of fascinating that when Jane Fonda was asked about her faith, she responded: "*For several years prior, I had begun to feel I was being led. I felt a presence, a reverence humming within me. It was and is difficult to articulate.*" Perhaps, as the final judgment comes upon Mystery Babylon, God's people will have a reverence humming within them as a sign of being gathered together unto the Lord as His flock, even as they are in the midst of distress and the rest of the world is in an uproar. Just a thought!

'Your doom has come to you, O inhabitant of the land. The time has come, the day is near—tumult [H4103; *mehumah*] rather than joyful shouting on the mountains. (Ezekiel 7:7 NASB)

Ezekiel warned the land of Israel: "**A disaster, unique disaster, behold it is coming!**" The day of tumult was coming. Where are we on God's prophetic clock? Is the hour late? Do you hear the sound of His voice, the tumult of the Lord? Is there a hum resonating within you? **Behold, tumult is coming! Behold, Jesus comes!**

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 #08-1404

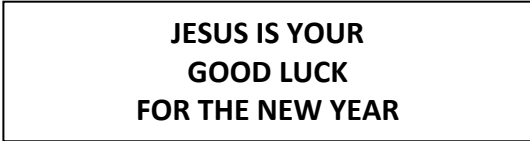
by – Stuart H. Pouliot

January 11, 2014

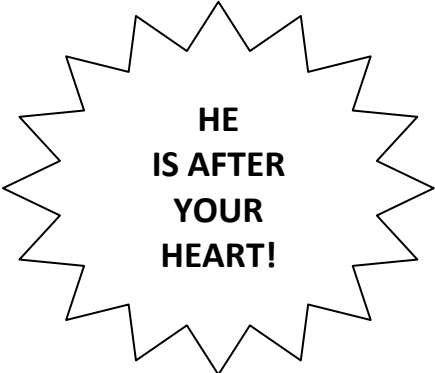
He is After Your Heart in Tumult

On January 1, 2014, I had a dream that I was holding a rolled-up poster that I then unrolled. There was writing on it that was divided into two parts, with the lower part containing writing within a starburst. The top part of the poster read: **Jesus Is Your Good Luck For The New Year**. The bottom part of the poster that was in a starburst read: **He Is After Your Heart!**

I know this word is for me, but I pass it along, for I also believe it is for others, especially as we enter a time of tumult. In the same night, many times I heard the word for 2014: **Tumult is Coming!** I will come back to this.



**JESUS IS YOUR
GOOD LUCK
FOR THE NEW YEAR**



**HE
IS AFTER
YOUR
HEART!**

My first reaction was quite mixed, and I wondered if this could be right or even made sense. No doubt, He is after hearts; this is a given. But, Jesus as good luck? Aren't we Christians taught that there is no such thing as good luck? It would have been more acceptable, at least to my initial way of thinking, if it read something like this: Jesus is your good for the New Year. Although a bit awkward, it has some merit, for, at least, it lines up with the psalmists: **Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His lovingkindness is everlasting** [for the ages, or age-lasting] (Psalm 136:1). Or, better yet: **O taste and see that the LORD is good; how blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!** (Psalm 34:8). We could spend a lot of time dwelling upon these two verses alone, but to consider the word *luck*, at least as we generally think of the word, as scriptural seems most untenable.

I was ready to discount the whole thing or, at least, the first part, until I looked up the definition of the word *luck*. I have learned to not be so quick to discount something just because it does not match my theology or that of the traditionalists. On more than one occasion, I believe the Lord has used the unusual to challenge me and stretch my understanding beyond the norm of the day. Often, these things are the Lord's teachable moments for me.

The most common definition of *luck* is: "the seemingly chance happening of events which affect one; fortune; lot; fate; good fortune; success, prosperity; advantage, etc." Truly, a case could be made for Jesus being our success, our prosperity, or our advantage. However, tracing the word back to its roots provides some additional meaning not commonly associated with its present-day meaning. The history of the word *luck* traces to the Middle English word *luk* or *lukke*. It also traces to an Indo-European base word *leug* that means "to bend." Thus, *luck* has the

basic sense of "what bends together," which implies "what occurs" or "what is fitting." Based on this, it seems that good luck could mean that something bends your way without any reason to do so other than by chance or, perhaps, the "odds" were in your favor.

Now, there is meaning to this word as it ties in with our Lord. Put aside the common notion that luck is all about chance events. With Jesus, nothing is by chance as if what good comes our way is by happenstance, as if based on some cosmic randomness. Jesus is our good bending together for 2014. Since He is after our hearts, He will bend our hearts toward Himself. He is going to bend us His way. He is the One who bends and shapes us into His image drawing us ever closer to His heart and mind. Jesus is our good fortune, success, and prosperity.

As I contemplated this, I was reminded of an article I wrote some years back on the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ, based on Paul's exhortation to the Corinthians: **O that ye were bearing with me a little of the folly, but ye also do bear with me: for I am zealous for you with zeal of God, for I did betroth you to one husband, a pure virgin, to present to Christ, and I fear, lest, as the serpent did beguile Eve in his subtilty, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity [G572] that is in the Christ....** (2 Corinthians 11:1-3 YLT)

In the Greek, *haplotes* [G572] is the word translated into simplicity. *Strong's Concordance* defines it as: From G573; *singleness*, that is, (subjectively) *sincerity (without dissimulation or self seeking)*, or (objectively) *generosity (copious bestowal)*: - bountifulness, liberal (-ity), simplicity, singleness. Its root word [G573] is *haplous*, which means "folded together" or "braided together (twine or braid)."

So, on one level, Paul exhorts the saints, which includes us, to be single-minded toward Christ. Do not confuse this with simple-minded, for our minds are to be actively engaged in this betrothal. This leads to a higher level that says this singleness is being folded together with the love of our life, the Lord Jesus. It is being braided together with our Love; to be folded together with Christ, not only in mind but in heart. It is a relational singleness.

Given this, *singleness* as in "folded together" and *luck* as in "what bends together" speak volumes as to our relationship with Jesus Christ. He bends us toward Himself so that we can be braided or folded together in His life. One Life, one Love, one Husband! This is all good. Is this not good luck, not as the world sees it but as the Spirit reveals it? May He reveal His heart ever more deeply to all of us this year! Do you realize that the number 14 (as in 2014) signifies *deliverance*? May we all be delivered out of double-mindedness and into single-mindedness and one heart with the Lord!

This leads to the second part and the good news of the poster dream. Again, the Lord is after your heart. As the Lord spoke to Samuel: **"God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart"** (1 Samuel 16:7).

Tumult is God's way of getting hearts lined up with His heart. Tumult is designed to drive God's people out of the world system that has so infiltrated and held our hearts in bondage and to seek Him with our whole heart so that we will be of one heart. There is only one way, and that is to be folded and braided together with God's Son, to be bent His way.

But, why the starburst in the dream? Well, recall that the word *luck* comes from *luk* or *lukke*, which is very similar to the name *Luke*, which, in Latin, means "luminous" or "giving off light." Jesus is the Light of the world! He is our lumen, our Light for this year and beyond.

Dear people of God, the King is coming, and we are called to be His Kingdom. I know many say the Kingdom is within us, but it is only there to the degree we sanctify Christ as Lord of our heart (1 Peter 3:15). We only have the Kingdom within to the degree that Christ is within, to the degree that we are single toward Him in heart and mind, to the degree that we are bent toward Him. Fear not; through tumult, God will take full possession of the heart of His people, for Jesus is our good luck for the New Year in the midst of tumult. The Lord is our GOOD for 2014; He is our GOOD bending; our GOOD fit; our GOOD occurrence; our GOOD success; our GOOD advantage; our GOOD light; and yes, our GOOD luck! People, get ready; make straight the way of the Lord!

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 #08-1405

by – Stuart H. Pouliot

January 12, 2014

The Day of Salvation

Since the end of 2013, it seems the Lord has impressed on my heart a general theme that, in spite of what is coming or, perhaps, because of what is coming, we need to rejoice. He is after our hearts, and He is going to get them, for God is love and love never fails; therefore, God does not fail at anything He has set His heart to do. Another way to state this is that His plan to achieve His ultimate purpose of *all in all* (1 Corinthians 15:28) is as sure as is His immeasurable, enduring, infinite love.

With this in mind, at 4:34 am, on December 22, 2013, I heard: ***This is the day of salvation; rejoice and be glad in it.*** I believe this is a **second word for 2014** as well.

As we see the structures of man, including the church that man has been building, continue to crumble, we are to be ever reminded that this is the day of salvation, for Christ's death and resurrection has won for all mankind that which mankind could not do on its own. Jesus has won our salvation, for He is the Savior of the world. **For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men**; therefore, we are **looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed** (Titus 2:11, 13). **Jesus Christ the righteous ... is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world** (1 John 2:1-2). Today, we are called to **fix our hope on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially** (but not exclusively) **of believers** (1 Timothy 4:10). These verses and many more should lead us to rejoice and be glad in the salvation of God through His Son, the Lord Jesus. This is the day of salvation, not only for us who now believe but for all of mankind that are yet to believe. What a glorious gospel!

Now, *this is the day of salvation; rejoice and be glad in it* is clearly presented in scripture, for it is discovered in several places. The first place to start, and the one in which I started, is with Paul the apostle of the nations who was given revelation of the mystery of the good news or the mystery of Christ.

(1) But working together, we also call on you not to receive the grace of God in vain. (2) For He says, "In an acceptable time I heard you, and in a day of salvation I helped you." Behold, now is the acceptable time! Behold, now is the day of salvation! Isa. 49:8 (2 Corinthians 6:1-2 LITV)

When the Lord Jesus broke into his life on the road to Damascus, Paul went into seclusion for an interval of 14 years (Galatians 2:1). However, this seclusion was of great value to Paul, for it is obvious that he spent his time searching the scriptures according to Moses and all the prophets and the psalmists. We can only imagine what went on in Paul's heart and mind as the Spirit of God unveiled the truth that had been hidden in shadows and types but was now manifested and revealed in the Anointed One (Messiah), God's Son. He consulted no one during this period so that what he saw and began to preach was not according to the tradition or influence of men. **Those who were of reputation contributed nothing to me** (Galatians 2:6).

Given this, when Paul wrote this encouraging word to the Corinthians, he quoted from Isaiah and, in so doing, confirmed that a day of salvation as spoken by the Lord to the ancient prophet had arrived, only it was not just a day of salvation, it was *the* day of salvation. This is the day to which all the prophets had pointed.

(8) Thus says the LORD, "In a favorable time I have answered You, and in a day of salvation I have helped You; and I will keep You and give You for a covenant of the people, to restore the land, to make them inherit the

desolate heritages; (9) saying to those who are bound, 'Go forth,' To those who are in darkness, 'Show yourselves.' Along the roads they will feed, and their pasture will be on all bare heights. (Isaiah 49:8-9 NASB)

Jesus set the captives free by unbinding them and delivering them out of darkness. On his first missionary journey, Paul again quoted the same chapter in Isaiah: **For so the Lord has commanded us, "I have set You for a Light of nations, that You be for salvation to the end of the earth."** Isa. 49:6 (Acts 13:47 LITV). When **the nations (aka gentiles) heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord** (Acts 13:48). Surely, Paul's heart was one with David's heart, the author of the 22nd psalm.

(27) All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will worship before You. (28) For the kingdom is the LORD'S and He rules over the nations. (29) All the prosperous of the earth will eat and worship, all those who go down to the dust will bow before Him, even he who cannot keep his soul alive. (30) Posterity will serve Him; it will be told of the Lord to the coming generation. (31) They will come and will declare His righteousness to a people who will be born, that He has performed it. (Psalm 22:27-31 NASB)

Dear people of God, this is a psalm of the restoration of all. Take note of the phrases *all the ends of the earth* and *all the families of the nations*. These are inclusive statements of fact. Even those who cannot save themselves and die will one day be prosperous and worship on earth. How will this come about? It will come through resurrection, for the Savior of the world is also the Resurrection and the Life. Again, what a glorious gospel! But, there is more, for Isaiah gives us more encouragement about the day of salvation.

(6) The LORD of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet for all peoples on this mountain; a banquet of aged wine, choice pieces with marrow, and refined, aged wine. (7) And on this mountain He will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples, even the veil which is stretched over all nations. (8) He will swallow up death for all time, and the Lord GOD will wipe tears away from all faces, and He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; for the LORD has spoken." (Isaiah 25:6-8 NASB)

(5) Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread out the earth and its offspring, Who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it, (6) "I am the LORD, I have called You in righteousness, I will also hold You by the hand and watch over You, and I will appoint You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the nations, (7) to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the dungeon and those who dwell in darkness from the prison. (8) "I am the LORD, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, nor My praise to graven images. (9) "Behold, the former things have come to pass, now I declare new things; before they spring forth I proclaim them to you." (Isaiah 42:5-9 NASB)

(1) Then you will say on that day, "I will give thanks to You, O LORD; for although You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away, and You comfort me. (2) "Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation." (3) Therefore you will joyously draw water from the springs of salvation. (4) And in that day you will say, "Give thanks to the LORD, call on His name. Make known His deeds among the peoples; make them remember that His name is exalted." (5) Praise the LORD in song, for He has done excellent things; let this be known throughout the earth. (6) Cry aloud and shout for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (Isaiah 12:1-6 NASB)

The year 2014 is a declaration from God that this is the day of salvation. It is the day to draw from the springs of salvation. It is the day to be a light to the nations. It is the day to wait for the Lord to come to bring us who believe into our full salvation in Christ, full of the Spirit, full of Christ – fully glorified, fully spiritual, fully heavenly, and fully immortal. We wait eagerly for the coming of the Lord Jesus with great hope and expectation. He has saved us, He is saving us, and He will save us; and not only us but all of mankind, not all at the same time but all eventually. **This is the day which the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it** (Psalm 118:24). **Behold, this is our God for whom we have waited that He might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation"** (Isaiah 25:9). Let us wait expectantly; it won't be long, **for He who is coming will come, and will not delay** (Hebrews 10:37). Come, Lord Jesus! Until then, rejoice and be glad!

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 #08-1406

by – Stuart H. Pouliot

January 14, 2014

Song: The Love of God

Recently, we were with some brethren in Christ, and we sang the well-known song, *The Love of God*, written in 1917 by Frederick M. Lehman. The roots of his song are in the Jewish poem *Haddamut*, written in Aramaic during the eleventh century in Germany.

The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell;
**It goes beyond the highest star,
And reaches to the lowest hell;
The guilty pair, bowed down with care,
God gave His Son to win;
His erring child He reconciled,
And pardoned from his sin.**

Refrain

Oh, love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure—
The saints' and angels' song.

When hoary time shall pass away,
And earthly thrones and kingdoms fall,
When men who here refuse to pray,
On rocks and hills and mountains call,
**God's love so sure, shall still endure,
All measureless and strong;
Redeeming grace to Adam's race—
The saints' and angels song.**

Refrain

Could we with ink the ocean fill,
And were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill,
And every man a scribe by trade;
**To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,
Though stretched from sky to sky.**

Evidence of its Jewish roots is made clear in the last stanza, as shown in this excerpt from the *Haddamut*.

Were the sky of parchment made,
A quill each reed, each twig and blade,
Could we with ink the oceans fill,
Were every man a scribe of skill,

The marvelous story
Of God's great glory
Would still remain untold,
For He, most high
The earth and sky
Created alone of old.

For those who have read much of my material, it is no secret I believe the good news of scripture is that God's Son is truly the Savior of the world and that, as Savior, He takes away the sin of the whole world, that is, all the sin, none excluded. I have written this many times, but it is worth repeating over and over again. The cross was and is an absolute, 100% success in the salvation of all mankind, none excluded; not all at the same time but all eventually, each in their own order or rank or troop. **In Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own order** (1 Corinthians 15:22-23). It pleased God the Father to crush His Son on a cross (Isaiah 53:10), for Jesus the Man was **delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God** (Acts 2:23). A savior is one who saves those unable to save themselves, meaning a savior delivers, rescues, or saves them from something that they were unable to do on their own, and, in the case of all of us, it is sin and death. This is exactly what Jesus, the begotten Son of God, did for all mankind, all born of Adam's race. Jesus came not to judge the world, but to save it (John 12:47). **Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners** (1 Timothy 1:15), and **all have sinned** (Romans 3:23). **For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly** (Romans 5:6). In other words, Jesus has rescued Adam's entire helpless and ungodly race from sin and death and, ultimately, is going to lead the entirety of the same race into life, free of sin and death and full of the righteousness and love of God. The Savior of the world is the Way, the Truth, the Resurrection, and the Life.

Well, this is only the tip of the iceberg, so to speak, of the scriptural evidence of the salvation of all. I realize that those who oppose, even vehemently oppose, this truth have their own pet verses, just as I do, to refute it, but, taken on the whole, I have concluded that the evidence is irrefutable.

Now, back to the song; frankly, I have come to the conclusion that true Christians, that is, those who have an earnest of the Spirit or the Spirit of Christ residing within them, know that **God is love** means that, in His love, God is eventually going to reach the heart of every human that has been or will be born on earth. They may deny it outwardly, even fight against it with great agitation, but it is deep within them, perhaps no more than in germ form, but it is there nonetheless, and they cannot escape it. I have heard too many Christians that vehemently deny the salvation of all make statements that are so close to the truth that it is a wonder they are not stopped dead in their tracks as if hit by a train. The logic of things they might say or even sing, as in this song by Frederick Lehman, leaves them with only one logical conclusion; and yet, they cannot make it all the way to its rightful conclusion, as if blindness has set in or a veil has been draped over the eye of their understanding. I believe God has placed this blindness on most of His people as the second advent of Christ is on the horizon, much like He blinded Judah at the first advent of Christ. But, I also believe that the day is coming when God is going to lift this veil and remove this blindness, and, when He does, the world will finally see a people who truly know the love of God and how to express this love as it has never been expressed to and among mankind.

If you are a skeptic regarding this great truth, I ask you to read this song or, better yet, search for it on the Internet and listen to it. Do you believe that God's love reaches to the highest star and to the lowest hell (however you view hell)? Do you believe that God's Son came to win, to reconcile, and to pardon? Do you believe that God's love is so sure, enduring, measureless, and strong that it extends His redeeming grace to Adam's entire race? Do you believe that there is any limit to God's love; is it infinite love to you? If in His infinite love, God through His Son has saved you and continues to save you who once was a helpless transgressor, dead in your trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1), don't you think God knows how to reach the heart of all and overwhelm them **with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus** (1 Timothy 1:13-14), just as He did for you? You didn't save yourself, so why do you think that man must save himself by his own volition and that the vast majority will not do so? Think about it!

Dear saints, *eonian* life is to know the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom He sent (John 17:3). God is love! Isn't it time to know that the immeasurable love of God cannot fail to love all of His creation back to Himself?

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 #08-1407

by – Stuart H. Pouliot

January 15, 2014

Come, Let Us Reason Together

In the translation that I use, the heading for Isaiah 44:9-20 reads: *The Folly of Idolatry*. As I read these verses, a thought came to me regarding how the Lord's people seem to come so close to the truth of the salvation of all or, as some say, the reconciliation or restoration of all things, without truly arriving at it. It is as if a partial blindness is in play, or as if they cannot make that final leap into the full truth of God's love, even though a logical analysis of *God is love* would lead them to only one rightful conclusion: **For this is ideal and welcome in the sight of our Saviour, God, (4) Who wills that all mankind be saved and come into a realization of the truth. For there is one God, and one Mediator of God and mankind, a Man, Christ Jesus, Who is giving Himself a correspondent Ransom for all (the testimony in its own eras [i.e., times or seasons]) (1 Timothy 2:3-6 CLV).**

I contend that the traditions and precepts of men are idols of the heart that keep us from the truth of God. We will come back to this thought, but first, let us consider what Isaiah has to say to us about the folly of idols.

(13) Another shapes wood, he extends a measuring line; he outlines it with red chalk. He works it with planes and outlines it with a compass, and makes it like the form of a man, like the beauty of man, so that it may sit in a house. (14) Surely he cuts cedars for himself, and takes a cypress or an oak and raises it for himself among the trees of the forest. He plants a fir, and the rain makes it grow. (15) Then it becomes something for a man to burn, so he takes one of them and warms himself; he also makes a fire to bake bread. He also makes a god and worships it; he makes it a graven image and falls down before it. (16) Half of it he burns in the fire; over this half he eats meat as he roasts a roast and is satisfied. He also warms himself and says, "Aha! I am warm, I have seen the fire." (17) But the rest of it he makes into a god, his graven image. He falls down before it and worships; he also prays to it and says, "Deliver me, for you are my god." (18) They do not know, nor do they understand, for He has smeared over their eyes so that they cannot see and their hearts so that they cannot comprehend. (19) No one recalls, nor is there knowledge or understanding to say, "I have burned half of it in the fire and also have baked bread over its coals. I roast meat and eat it. Then I make the rest of it into an abomination, I fall down before a block of wood!" (Isaiah 44:13-19 NASB)

This is a great example of the blindness of religion when one leaves his logic at the door, so to speak, as he enters the realm of religion. Follow the illogic of what these idolaters were doing. They plant a tree and raise it for themselves for two totally opposite purposes. The first purpose is quite acceptable, if not necessary. They plant a tree in order to use the wood to make fires upon which to cook food for their sustenance and to keep them warm in cold weather. But then take note of the second purpose. They take the other half of the wood from the very tree they planted in the first place and make it into an idol. They make it a god and fall down before it, a block of wood, and worship it as if it has life and power beyond them. In other words, the very thing that they fashioned out of a block of wood, they make into a god to deliver them.

Now, stop and think for a moment, and answer this question: How could someone be so blind as to do such a thing? Don't they see the illogic of what they are doing and saying? But, here is another question: As Christians, are we susceptible to the same illogic in our understanding of God and His truth? You see, over the years, I have met Christians who believe things that belie logic when it comes to truth. In fact, somewhere along the line, I heard someone say that we don't need logic for we have faith, which implies that faith has no logic to it. Do you really think this is true? Do you think that God is not logical in what He does? Do you think faith and logic are incompatible?

What is logic? *Logic* is "the science of correct reasoning; science which deals with the criteria of valid thought"; it is correct reasoning; valid induction or deduction: as, logic shows a better course." Simply, *logic* is correct reasoning. Here is an example of logic: (A) God is love, and (B) love never fails; therefore, (C) God never fails. A+B = C. Given A + B and concluding that God fails would be illogical.

Let us not forget that the Lord called the sons of Israel to reason with Him: **"Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they will be like wool"** (Isaiah 1:18 NASB). The Hebrew word for *reason* is *yakach*, which, according to *Strong's Concordance*, is "a primitive root; to *be right* (that is, correct); reciprocally to *argue*; causatively to *decide, justify or convict*." Reason is one of the arguments of logic, for it is the ability to think, form judgments, draw conclusions, etc. The Lord reasoned with the Hebrews based on if and then statements, which is the heart of arguments of logic. He wanted them to think rightly, to come to the right conclusion. If they consented, then all this would be applied to them. If they did not consent to it, then they would be devoured by the sword.

Do you think that God no longer wants to reason with us, as if this went out the door at Calvary? Do you think Paul never tried to reason with his Jewish brethren and detractors? Acts proves otherwise.

(23) Then, having themselves arranged a day with him, more folks came to him, into [his] place of lodging, to whom he continued setting forth, explaining from out of [his] midst, while progressively giving thorough evidence and double witness of God's reign (or: the kingdom of God), besides constantly using persuading and convincing [reasoning with] them concerning Jesus – both from the Law (= Torah) of Moses and from the Prophets – from early morning until evening. (24) And so [some] folks, on the one hand, began being progressively persuaded and convinced by (or: in) the things being continuously spoken and laid out, yet on the other hand, [other] folks continued without faith and trust (or: persisted in unbelief). (Acts 28:23-24 JM-NT)

If we consider the Jews in the days of Jesus and Paul, they had two glaring problems that blinded them to the truth. They thought that since they were God's chosen people and nation, they held special favor with God and would not be held liable for what they said or did. Simply, they could do no wrong. Their second problem was called the tradition or precepts of men. Consider Jesus' indictment of the Jews in His day.

(7) 'BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.' **(8) "Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men."** (Mark 7:7-8 NASB)

Are we immune from this just because we believe and have faith? Paul did not think so.

Keep watching out for and beware that someone will not be the one progressively (or: repeatedly) **carrying you off captive** (as booty or a prey) **through the philosophy and empty seduction** (or: a trick having no content) **being handed down in the tradition of men** (or: corresponding to the thing handed along from humans), **down from** (corresponding to) **the elementary principles** (rudimentary teachings) **of the organized system** (the world [e.g., the religion or culture]), **and not down from** (in accord with) **Christ....** (Colossians 2:8 JM-NT)

Brethren, this is a real danger for us today as well. The danger has not changed. Perhaps, it is even worse in our day. After all, it takes years for the traditions of men to develop and take root. We have had 2,000 years for the traditions to leaven our thinking and to dull our logic to the point that we no longer see the danger. They are called *idols of the heart*; they are not idols formed out of wood and things we make; they are idols of thought that we call *truth*, but are no more than traditions and precepts of men. As John wrote: **Little children, guard yourselves from idols** (1 John 5:21). I encourage you to read my article #54, August 2012, *Idols of the Heart [Graven Images]*. If interested, go to this link: <http://www.kingdomandglory.com/art/art54.pdf>.

Let us come out of the folly of the traditions of men! Let us seek to know the heart of God! If you reason with God, I believe that by His Spirit He will reveal His infinite love for all mankind, for He wills all mankind be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. Love demands it, for love will never fail to conquer all, to the glory of God and His Son. Come, let us reason together!

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 #08-1408

by – Stuart H. Pouliot

January 29, 2014

Let All The Earth Be Silent Before Him!

Today, around 1:48 am, I was awake and considering why the Lord had been relatively silent with me during this first month of 2014. The month was not totally void of His voice, but it was the quietest month in some time. So, I asked the Lord why it was so. Over the years, I have learned that we must wait on the Lord, something that seems to be difficult for some of the Lord's people to do and even at times seems to be out of vogue. After all, aren't we to be actively engaged in doing things for God; time is of the essence, we need to be doing something, even fulfilling our purpose? I am not of this school of thought. We need to wait upon the Lord. It is not about what we can or need to do for God; it is all about what our Father and Lord are doing. We need to line up with God's will, not our will or even our good intentions. Anything less or more than this will not do!

Well, when I asked this question, I immediately heard: **Let all the earth be silent!**

This comes straight out of the oracles of Habakkuk and Zechariah: **"But the LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before Him"** (Habakkuk 2:20). **"Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD; for He is aroused from His holy habitation"** (Zechariah 2:13).

This is not a new word for me as it has come to me periodically since 2010. Of late, this word has resonated with me on several occasions as I have been with the Lord's people. It has been as if the Spirit of God has been whispering to me: "Silence. Let there be silence. Listen for My voice." All of this goes along with previous words from the Lord. The word for 2012 was and still is: **Who has stood in the council of the Lord that he should see and hear His word?** The word for 2013 was and still is: **Wait for it!** Here are the links for more on these words.

<http://www.kingdomandglory.com/tuc/tuc572.pdf>

<http://www.kingdomandglory.com/tuc/tuc559.pdf>

This morning was different. The Lord broke His silence to tell me that it is time for the earth to be silent before Him. His silence toward me was a sign of the call for all flesh, all of the earth, to be silent before Him. It is not a call for one segment of mankind but a call to all mankind, for according to scripture, we are all of the earth or from the soil of the earth.

Then the LORD God formed man of dust [soil] from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being [soul]. (Genesis 2:7 NASB [CVL])

The first man is from the earth [ge], earthy [soilish; choikos]; the second man is from heaven. As is the earthy [soilish; choikos], so also are those who are earthy [soilish; choikos]; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. Just as we have borne the image of the earthy [soilish; choikos], we will also bear the image of the heavenly. (1 Corinthians 15:47-49 NASB [CVL])

The Greek word *ge* comes from a primary word meaning "soil." The Greek word *choikos* means "made of earth or earthy" and comes from another word that means "dusty or dirty, soil like." Most translations translate the Greek as the adjective *earthy*; however, the *Concordant Literal* (CVL) translates it as *soilish*. When we consider that mankind is made of the same substance as the earth, the word *soilish* makes a lot of sense. Given this, it is safe to conclude that the Lord is speaking to all mankind of our day, including Christians, for our bodies are earthen vessels (2 Corinthians 4:7) or terrestrial/earthy tabernacle houses (2 Corinthians 5:1).

Who could question that there is a great need throughout the world for mankind to be silent in a day of great unrighteousness and injustice, and in a day in which all the structures of man continue to crumble? Who of the world leaders or even religious leaders are being silent before the Lord, even acknowledging His presence as well as His right over His creation? Who is coming before Him in silence to hear His voice? Only the Lord knows, but based on what is going on in the world today, it is easy to draw the conclusion that there are not many. There is a great need for silence in a day of great chatter.

However, I believe there is a much greater message in this word based on the fact that the Lord is in His holy temple or habitation and that this temple is not made of bricks and mortar but of people. Since the day of Pentecost, as the Lord's people, we are the temple of the Lord. As Paul reminds us: **Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? We are the temple of the living God** (1 Corinthians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 6:16; also see 1 Corinthians 3:17; 6:19). Further, Paul tells us that we are **growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in Spirit** (Ephesians 2:21-22). So, the Lord is in us, His temple, and He is saying to be silent.

We must acknowledge, however, that this temple has not been perfected or fully built up yet as we continue to occupy mortal bodies, that is, earthen vessels (2 Corinthians 4:7), which means we are still of the earth (earthy or soilish), and we have the continual danger of living out of our earthiness. Our earthiness is our flesh that Paul says cannot inherit the kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 15:50). We are called to be a spirit-led people. Given this, the Lord is saying to His people: "Let your flesh be silent before Me. Let your earthiness, your soilishness be silent. Your flesh is directing your lives and speaking to you. You have a new nature in you. You have My Spirit in you, the Spirit of Christ. Be silent and listen to My Spirit. You live by My Spirit; now walk by My Spirit. I am a life-giving Spirit and am preparing a one new spiritual man in My image."

He is in us and we are in Him. We are His Body, His holy Temple; and He is commanding silence in a day of many voices, many confusing voices. Just as judgment begins with His house, so must silence begin with His holy Temple. It is the only way to hear and perceive His voice in the day of Babel. We desperately need to hear the Lord, and, to do to this, we need to be silent before Him. We need to stop listening to the voices of men who have not stood in the council of the Lord. We need to stop listening to the voices of the false prophets.

Do you realize that the school of prophets during Samuel's day produced the false prophets that appeared in the midst of Judah and Israel? They were professionals, religionists, academic prophets who studied religious history and had religious knowledge, but they were not speaking the oracles of the Lord. Is it any different in our day as the seminaries and other forms of religious schools produce professional pulpiteers, even ones who take on the title *prophet*? Of course, one does not have to go to school to take on a title, for many in our day do this in the absence of professional schooling. It is time for silence before the Lord!

This is no small issue or one to ignore. We are moving into perilous times, a day of tumult; the structures of man, even the religious structures, are crumbling. It is going to become increasingly difficult to discern the Lord's voice if we do not know how to discern His voice in this day. The day is fast approaching when it will be too late to learn how to discern His voice over the many other voices. This is a call to the individual members of the Body of Christ. Although the Lord speaks through men to His people, it is imperative that each of us learns to hear His voice speaking directly to us; only in this way will we be able to discern if and when He speaks through others. For too long now, many of the Lord's people have relied on the voice of others, believing that just because they have a title or a ministry or have written best-selling books or have been outwardly successful in the "work," everything they say is from the Lord. It is time to have a change of mind. We are one Body and of one Spirit, and we need to hear the one Voice! All of us, as the Body of Christ, need spiritual ears, and these come by being silent before the Lord.

Dear people of God, the Lord is in us. It is time to hush our earthiness and to push aside the innumerable distractions of life that are simply corralling us like cattle for slaughter. It is time to listen, for **the LORD is in His holy temple; let all the earth be silent before Him!**

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 #08-1409

by – Stuart H. Pouliot

February 14 , 2014

War of Peace!

On **January 31, 2014**, I dreamed something that was a bit unusual. I believed it was from the Lord but was not sure if I should share it or not. However, this changed today when I read of the death of a brother in Christ named Bob Jones (not the founder of the university). What caught my attention was his last prophecy. I will get to this, but first a word about the dream.

I was in a war, but it was not a typical one with people being killed; it was called a WAR OF PEACE. At first, this seemed rather strange to me, for we normally do not think of war in this way. We might think of fighting a war *for* peace but not fighting a war *of* peace.

At one point, I was told that I have been raised up for this war and have a critical part in it, not as a typical soldier with guns blazing, but as a peacemaker who stands and withstands in Christ, the Conqueror of all – the Prince of Peace who has won peace for all mankind and all creation.

Then, I was taken back to the day when the Lord broke into my life around the spring of 1981 and revealed Himself as the Victor. As if to re-write that day, I saw the Son of God standing over the entire universe as the Prince of Peace. This scene reminded me of the word and vision I received on December 14, 2013: "All creation in the womb of God!"

The word came: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God." Then, it seemed as if for the rest of the night, I kept hearing: "More than conquerors through Him who loves us."

But, one more thing was revealed to me. I have believed for several years that, starting at the turn of the 21st century, the world entered into a 21-year period divided into three 7-year cycles. I was led back to a dream I was given on January 1, 2007 in which I saw people buying and selling Nikes (i.e., *nikao*, "to conquer or overcome") and heard the words *finis* and *it is finished*. Through this reminder, I was given confirmation that the cycles run like this: 2000-2007-2014-2021, meaning that we are completing the second cycle and moving into the third and last one.

I have stated in other writings that I plan to write an article on these cycles but have desired more clarity. This dream helps in this regard, so perhaps I am getting closer to writing it.

What is clear to me at this point is that we are entering a new period (cycle) called the ***War of Peace***. What it will look like, I was not told, but we can be assured that it will be something that we have never experienced. Perhaps, we will fully comprehend what it means to shod our feet with the good news of the Peace (Isaiah 52:7; Ephesians 6:15). One thing we do know is the peace of God that surpasses all understanding is not produced by carnal or fleshly means, whether by the world (nations) or the church-at-large, no matter how good the intentions. This peace is in Christ Jesus, and it comes through love, the Son of God's love.

Jesus said: "**Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful**" (John 14:27 NASB). Jonathans Mitchell's New Testament words the second part of the first sentence as: "**I, Myself, am not giving [it] to you the way (according as) the system (the world of religion, politics and culture) continually gives [it]"** (John 14:27 JM-NT). The peace and the means necessary to wage this war must and will come from the Prince of Peace and Him alone.

Dear brethren, we are more than conquerors through Him who loves us. We overwhelmingly conquer by standing and withstanding in and by the faith of the Son of God as conquerors on the side of love and peace. Love never fails!

For too long, we have been misrepresenting and mischaracterizing our heavenly Father. ***God is love!*** In His love and through the Son of His love, it is **the Father's good pleasure ... to reconcile 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). He has made peace with all, for **God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them** (2 Corinthians 5:19).

For many years now, based on being around others engaged in so-called spiritual warfare, I have sensed more carnality than spirituality. I will restrain from giving examples, for I do not want to malign the many who have seriously desired to wage spiritual warfare. However, the times are changing and what seemed right or acceptable in the past will not do. The carnal, religious façade that has been built around the name of Christ is going to crumble under the mighty hand of our loving God. It is time for the Body of Christ to grow up and to be truly **fitted together into a holy temple in the Lord, being built together into a dwelling of God in spirit** (Ephesians 2:21-22). Recently, the Lord gave me a vision of the word *together* that I will share in a subsequent writing.

Our warfare is not about beating up the enemy (devil, etc) by calling it names and pretending to stomp on its head or even praying against it; it is by standing and withstanding in the Victor, the Prince of Peace. In Christ, the war is won; our present stance must be from the position of peace, and we are to stand and withstand by faith in the peace of Christ. MORE THAN CONQUERORS! Yes; there are powers and principalities to struggle against, but it is not through carnal means (even carnal prayer) but through peace. Again, blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God. If we are truly growing up to be placed as sons in God's Kingdom, then we need to be peacemakers. Sonship demands it!

Christ is of an entirely different order, unlike anything on earth today. He is the King-Priest of the order of Melchizedek, the King of Righteousness and the King of Peace (Hebrews 5:6; 7:1-2, 17). We are of this order and are now being called into His War of Peace. It may not be entirely clear how to wage this war at this point, but be assured that the love of God is the ground upon which it is fought.

Now, this leads to Bob Jones' last published prophecy: <http://www.bobjones.org/index.cfm>. Mind you; I did not know of this prophecy until today. As a general principle, I do not read many prophecies or follow so-called prophetic ministries. Like so many things in life, too much of one thing, especially when it comes to pulpit ministries and prophecies, can and generally does influence our thinking and actions; an ever-present danger in a day of confusion. Personally standing in the council of the Lord is the antidote for such danger (Jeremiah 23:22).

The prophecy is called *The Coming Promise* and contains five headings: *Vision of the Apple Tree, Peacemakers Bloom, Armory of God's LOVE, Vision of God's Armory, and Ministry of the Peacemakers*. I won't attempt to explain it other than to point out that the thread that runs through it is peace and love. A new type of warfare is going to be released by the Father based on His divine nature, love. Quoting: "The peacemakers' entire nature will be characterized by His love and love will be the fruit they bear." Although he did not use the term WAR OF PEACE, Bob was given a glimpse of it. Time will tell if things will work out precisely as presented in this prophecy, but one thing is for sure, it gives some clarity to the WAR OF PEACE. Interestingly, love and peace are the language of those who know in their hearts that the Father wills to save all mankind, not all at the same time, but all eventually, for the cross is an absolute, 100% success in the salvation of all. Jesus is the SAVIOR of the world, none excluded. Although it seems that Bob never publically declared this truth and those he most associated with publically reject it, his heart was not far from it. He passed on with the right heart.

There is one final thought on his passing. Bob died on Valentine's Day; a heart day. LOVE! On the same day a huge winter storm named PAX hit the east coast and had just completed its path through Bob's hometown. The word PAX means PEACE. When Bob fell asleep in the Lord, PAX the storm also had passed on; the temperature rose above freezing, the sky was a beautiful Carolina blue, and all the snow and ice began melting. PEACE!

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 #08-1410

by – Stuart H. Pouliot

September 4, 2014

Update

It has been quite a while since I last wrote anything, not sure why, except the simple answer is that I have felt restrained to do so. I trust this restraint is from the Spirit of God. Part of me says that there are far too many voices in this day, voices that only add to the confusion or, if you will, the *babel* of Mystery Babylon, which means "confusion." During this time of silence the Lord has not been silent with me, for I have heard and seen many things, many on the personal front but also several on the global front that tie in with the news of the day. Things that I have seen in dreams or vision or heard in word years ago are coming to light exactly one, two, three or more years later. I should add that some things have actually occurred on the very same day.

Some of these are documented under the "prophetic" tab of my web site. There are many more than what is posted. Frankly, I grew tired of people saying: "Why are you telling us these things? What can we do with them?" Well, here is the answer that the Lord gave me recently: ***They are markers, like signposts along the road, indicating the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ is coming soon.*** All of these seemingly "bad" things that I am shown are coming are in answer to the word given to me on February 27, 1995: ***"When the structures crumble, testify of My Kingdom."*** This came during a time of relative peace and prosperity in our country. As we have entered the 21st century, it has become obvious as the years have progressed that the structures of our society, culture, government, and finances have been crumbling. By the way, the number **21** can signify **distress**. The feet of clay of Daniel 2 are being struck by the Stone Kingdom of our Lord, and one day soon, the whole of the modern-day Babylonian system of man from its head of gold to its feet of iron and clay will be ground into dust and the wind will carry it away so that not a trace of this counterfeit, usurping kingdom is ever found again. Hallelujah! Read Daniel 2:31-35; 44-45; 7:9-27. THIS IS GOOD NEWS!!

Heaven rules, and this rule is coming to this earth as our present wicked age ends and the Kingdom of the Son of God's love begins to take root in this earth in an outward way throughout the nations until the knowledge of the glory of the Lord fills the whole earth as the waters cover the sea (Habakkuk 2:14). Don't dwell on the negatives but rejoice in the glory that is about to be revealed. The King and His Kingdom are coming!

Well, here are some of the markers I have been shown, some of which I have reported on previously.

On March 11, 2008, I dreamed of the ***Titanic sinking*** and then, as if scrolling across a screen, I saw ***the year 1917 and then the word (month) May***. Exactly six months later, the world found itself in the greatest financial crisis of our time that has continued to this day. For more on this, please see the link below. Since **100** can signify **completion**, perhaps the year 1917 points to the year 2017.

<http://www.kingdomandglory.com/prophetic/p17.pdf>

On February 22, 2009, I dreamed of a ***FedEx plane flying through the air and then tumbling end-over-end as it crashed to the ground***. One month later, on March 22, 2009, a FedEx cargo plane crashed and tumbled down the runaway in Tokyo, Japan. It was actually reported that it ***"had tumbled down the runway."*** At the time, I stated that the economies or commerce of Japan and the US were intertwined and something might occur in the future that hits both countries. Nearly two years later, on March 11, 2011, ***Japan experienced one of the largest recorded earthquakes in history with a devastating tsunami that led to the meltdown of one or more of its nuclear reactors***. Just as importantly, on March 22, 2011, exactly two years from the FedEx plane crash, Japan experienced three more major quakes, one a magnitude 6.6, and it was reported that water was boiling in one of

the nuclear reactors. This was 11 days from the first quake of the 11th in the 11th year of the 21st century; the number **11** signifies **disorder, disintegration**. Truly, the nuclear reactor had disintegrated. Initially, the potential impact of this incident was downplayed until it leaked out that in fact a meltdown had occurred. Today, using the International Nuclear Event Scale (INES), the Fukushima accident is now classified as a maximum Level 7 disaster (up from Level 4). This story has not ended. As a side note, the dream of the Titanic sinking occurred on March 11, the same date as the Japan quake/tsunami/meltdown three years later.

On September 10, 2009, I heard: **"Tea party fails; Obama rules."** Three years later I found myself in an intercessory prayer meeting focused on the 2012 presidential election. The "prophetic" tone of the meeting was that Romney was going to win and some were declaring scripture to make the point. As I sat there listening, this word about Obama ruling came back to me. Well, the rest is history. Shortly after, some declared the tea party was over. Interestingly, my attention was caught by an article posted on the web January 15, 2014 that was titled **Obama Announces Plan to RULE by Executive Order**.

On June 29, 2010, I was in prayer and inquiring of the Lord about our government and a vision came to me of the **US Supreme Court building in DC disconnected from its foundation and floating down a river with the right side of the building listing in the water as if it were sinking**. Later that day, I realized that hearings were being held to place Elena Kagan on the Supreme Court bench. Interestingly, the word **kagan** can refer to an imperial rank of **ruler** or **king**. Exactly two years later, on June 28, 2012, the Supreme Court with Judge Roberts, the supposedly right-leaning judge, in the lead ruled the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* (aka *Obamacare*) constitutional because the penalty for not having insurance was actually a tax. Some would argue that the left side of the court won and the right side lost (as in *sank in the water*).

On April 25, 2013, I heard: **"Tyranny is coming."** Shortly after that and continuing with greater intensity to the present, alternate news media began reporting that tyranny had come upon us from our governments. By the way, a tyrant is one who is a usurper, a usurper of power and authority. Mystery Babylon is a usurper, even a counterfeit to the Kingdom of God and New Jerusalem. The good news is that Mystery Babylon's days are numbered and there aren't too many of them left.

On March 8 and April 29, 2013, I dreamed of **the Russian army invading some land**. I saw **submarines** involved in the conflict. Exactly one year later, during March 2014, Russian flags were flying over Crimea, the naval port for Russia's Black Sea Fleet. Today, the Ukraine conflict is one of the big news stories.

On July 26, 2013, I heard a word about the coming of **"one of the worst disasters in aviation history."** Exactly one year later, on July 24, 2014, the news reported that **"multiple air disasters make for one of aviation's worst weeks."** As reported: **"Aviation has suffered one of its worst weeks in memory, a cluster of disasters spanning three continents."** [Source: Associated Press]

On August 13, 2014, I heard: **"Deep darkness is coming,"** and then six days later on the 18th, I heard: **"Deep darkness is descending on the nations today."** On September 2-3, 2014, the news from more than one outlet reported: **"World in chaos."** This all goes along with the word the Lord gave me for this year going forward: **"Tumult is coming."** Well, tumult is here! By the way, it was 21 (distress) days from the time I heard of deep darkness until the news media began reporting on chaos. Tumult, deep darkness, and chaos are all interrelated.

Again, these are only a small sample of the markers I have been shown. I don't want to leave you on a negative note, so I conclude with a word the Lord gave me on April 14, 2014. I simply asked the Father for a word about the four **Blood Moons**; the first came on April 14 and the second will appear on October 8, 2014. His response was simple yet profound: **"I LOVE YOU!"** Think about it! The Blood Moons are bookends of **Passover**, the first work of Christ to save the world (all mankind) from sin and death, and **Tabernacles**, the second work of Christ to establish His Kingdom on earth through His conquerors (overcomers) when He comes to resurrect and transfigure the sons of God giving them immortal, glorified, spiritual, heavenly bodies in His image. **And they will reign with Him for a thousand years** (see Revelation 20:4-6). More on all this later.

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 #08-1411

by – Stuart H. Pouliot

September 5, 2014

Four Blood Moons & the Great City

During early spring of this year, there was a lot of buzz about the upcoming blood moons that will occur in conjunction with Passover and Tabernacles during 2014-2015. Books and many articles have been written about them and their possible implications to the world and the modern-state of Israel, the usurpers of the birthright name given to Joseph, not Judah (1 Chronicles 5:1-2).

Back in March of this year, a well-known televangelist who is also a vehement Christian Zionist had his face plastered on the Internet as he pitched his new book on the Blood Moons. This preacher states with great bravado that the flag of modern Israel will forever fly over Jerusalem. If he is correct, then where does that leave two great prophets, Jeremiah and Isaiah, that prophesied of a total and final destruction of Jerusalem (Jeremiah 19:10-12; Isaiah 29:1-10)? Or, what about Jesus' indictment of Jerusalem and its religion, Judaism? Would they thrive once again as a nation and bear fruit for the Kingdom of God? No; they would not, even if they came back to life, that is, became a fig tree (national state) with green leaves. They would remain barren, along with all the nations of the world.

And, perceiving one fig tree [bad figs of Judah; Jeremiah 24:1-10] on the roadside, He came to it and found nothing on it except leaves only. And He is saying to it, "No longer, by any means, may fruit be coming of you for the eon [barren with no promise of ever bearing fruit again]. And withered instantly is the fig tree." (Matthew 21:19 CLV)

Because of this I say to you, The kingdom of God will be taken from you, and it will be given to a nation [ethnos] producing the fruits of it. (Matthew 21:43 LITV)

Within 40 years of Jesus' exhortation, Jerusalem was laid waste by the Romans and many Jews were killed, either by the Romans or by fellow Jews. If interested in a detailed account of what happened in 70 AD, read Josephus' *The War of the Jews*. Jesus warned it would come upon those who rejected Him, demanded His crucifixion, and usurped His throne (Matthew 23:2), and it did.

"But the king [God] was enraged, and he sent his armies [Romans from 66-73 AD] and destroyed those murderers [Jews] and set their city [Jerusalem] on fire." (Matthew 22:7 NASB)

Some might retort that Israel (*aka* the Jew) is back on the land as prophesied by Jesus through the parable of the fig tree.

Then He told them a parable: "Behold the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they put forth leaves, you see it and know for yourselves that summer is now near. So you also, when you see these things happening, recognize that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all things take place." (Luke 21:29-32 NASB)

The leaves of a modern-state erroneously called *Israel* came forth in May 1948, but so did the leaves of many other nations. In May 1949, Israel was given full membership in the United Nations (UN), and over the next three decades, the UN membership grew by 92 nations. The greatest increase in UN membership (42 nations) occurred in the same decade that Israel took control of Jerusalem (1967). Truly, the fig tree (bad fig tree of Judah called *Israel*) and all the trees (nations) came to life (put forth leaves). Many take this as a positive sign that the present-

day Israel is God's nation, but scripture may indicate otherwise. It is most definitely a sign but not one of fruitfulness. It is a sign that as we near the end of this present wicked age, the nations will not be bearing fruit for the Kingdom of God. They all will be barren. Does it need to be proven; simply look around the world and see if you can discover one fruit-bearing nation, one that lifts up the name of Jesus as King of kings? Even the United States fails in this regard as our nation is looking more like ancient Sodom (usury, immorality) and Egypt (bondage, spirit of the world) in character.

So, the barren fig tree and all the nations are a sign that the Kingdom of God is near, not a sign that these nations are bearing fruit for the Kingdom or that they will ever bear fruit in this present age. In the next age, many nations will begin to bear Kingdom fruit, but we are not in the next age yet. Jesus said that the barren fruit tree would never bear fruit in this age, and so it will not.

Some might argue that even though Jesus prophesied of Jerusalem's destruction in 70 AD, the fact that it has been rebuilt proves that it is the eternal capital of God's Kingdom; consequently, it will never cease to be so. Really? Let's consider another set of scriptures. The first one is from Jesus as He pronounced Jerusalem guilty of all the blood shed on earth. This is a mighty powerful indictment.

"Therefore, behold, I am sending you prophets and wise men and scribes; some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues, and persecute from city to city, so that upon you may fall the guilt of all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. "Truly I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation." (Matthew 23:34-36 NASB)

Now, turning to the *Revelation of Jesus Christ* as recorded by John, the apostle of love, Jerusalem is described as **the great city which mystically is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified** (Revelation 11:8). In Revelation 17-18, this great city is called **a mystery, Babylon the Great, the mother of Harlots and of the Abominations of the Earth** (Revelation 17:5). This doesn't sound like good news for this great city, and it isn't, for John declared its downfall. **So will Babylon, the great city, be thrown down with violence, and will not be found any longer** (Revelation 18:21).

Part of the mystery of this great city is that Babylon (as are Sodom and Egypt) is synonymous with Jerusalem. John was not describing a rebuilt city in the ancient land of Babylon or modern-day Iraq. John proves the point by using the same words as Jesus did in reference to His indictment of Jerusalem.

"Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, because God has pronounced judgment for you against her."... "And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints and of all who have been slain on the earth." (Revelation 18:20, 24 NASB)

It was thrown down in 70 AD and is destined to be thrown down again at the end of this age. In fact, its demise will be the sign that the Kingdom of our Lord has come. Add to this Paul's allegory to the Galatians in which he clearly states that **the present Jerusalem** [in Paul's day] **is in slavery and must be cast out, for the Jerusalem above is free; she is our mother** (Galatians 4:21-31). Has this need changed just because there is a modern-day Jerusalem sitting in the Middle East? Are we now to embrace two Jerusalems? No! Space doesn't allow for more elaboration but further explanation is found in some of my articles. Please see the links below.

Cast Out the Slave Woman: <http://www.kingdomandglory.com/art/art25.pdf>

Fig Tree in Scripture: <http://www.kingdomandglory.com/art/art38.pdf>

Dualism, Reversionism, Graftage: <http://www.kingdomandglory.com/art/art39.pdf>

Why Modern Israel? <http://www.kingdomandglory.com/tuc/tuc480.pdf>

For more on Israel, the Jew, Esau, etc, search the 2010 archives.

<http://www.kingdomandglory.com/tuc2010.html>

THE UPWARD CALL

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I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God
IN CHRIST JESUS.*

(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

TUC #08-1412

by – Stuart H. Pouliot

September 6, 2014

Antichrist

For years, many Christians have been looking for an antichrist to arise and diabolically rule the world. Of course, the same ones are generally looking for the Jews to rebuild a temple and begin animal sacrifices, along with a 3½-7 year tribulation, which all Christians will escape from because they will be raptured out of here to heaven. Christians will be saying "to hell with earth" as they fly off to heaven in their gospel ship. Well, I exaggerate; I don't believe they will be saying this, but some pulpитеers preach along this line with great glee and excitement. As for a rebuilt temple and animal sacrifices, have they not read Hebrews 10:29 about trampling underfoot the Son of God, regarding as unclean the blood of the (new) covenant? This leads to the subject of the antichrist.

In scripture, the word *antichrist* is used only five times, and all by John in two of his epistles. This word is made up of the Greek words *anti* [G473] and *christos* [G5547]. *Anti* is defined as "opposite, instead of, because of," meaning the subject is replacing or taking the place of something. Thus, in Matthew 20:28, Jesus gave His life a ransom for [*anti*] many, and in Matthew 2:22, Archelaus was reigning in the place of [*anti*] his father Herod. *Christos* is defined as "anointed" and, as we know, is the title associated most with Jesus the Christ.

Given these definitions, *antichrist* simply means one who is in the place of Christ. In a sense, such a one does not necessarily have to take an outward stand against Christ, as if to declare, "I am against Christ." All one has to do is be in the place reserved or designated for the true Christ or deny that Christ has a place at all or believe that He is not who He says He is. John, the beloved apostle, clearly makes all these points in warning of antichrists.

Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that *antichrist* is coming, even now many *antichrists* have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour. ... Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the *antichrist*, the one who denies the Father and the Son. (1 John 2:18, 22 NASB)

And every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the *antichrist*, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world. (1 John 4:3 NASB)

For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the *antichrist*. (2 John 1:7 NASB)

First, John refers to antichrist in the singular and plural and as a spirit. Many deceivers have gone out into the world and these are antichrists. Liars and spirits can be antichrists. Second, John defines *antichrist* as one that denies and does not confess Jesus is the Christ, does not acknowledge Jesus as coming in the flesh, and denies the Father and the Son. Such a one is a liar and a deceiver, having the spirit of antichrist.

This raises the question of who John referred to as antichrists. Were they Jews, gnostics, or both? Jesus had warned His disciples that many false Christs and prophets would arise, especially in a time(s) of great tribulation in order to lead many astray, so John was very much on the lookout for this danger (Matthew 24:24).

In his commentary on 1 John, the famous British theologian Robert Govett (1813-1901) stated that the antichrists were the gnostics and argued that they were not the Jews; however, in quoting Irenaeus, he referred to a Jew named Cerinthus as an example of a gnostic. Irenaeus, one of the early church fathers and apologists of the second century, wrote against the heresy of gnosticism which was seriously threatening the church. In *Against Heresies* (Book 1, Chapter 26), Irenaeus wrote about the doctrine of the gnostic Cerinthus, a Jew by race and

religion and possibly a contemporary of John the apostle. Clearly, Cerinthus made Jesus and Christ into two separate beings, thus denying that Christ came in the flesh and that Jesus is the Christ. Irenaeus wrote: ***"Cerinthus, again, a man who was educated in the wisdom of the Egyptians, taught that the world was not made by the primary God, but by a certain Power far separated from him, and at a distance from that Principality who is supreme over the universe, and ignorant of him who is above all. He represented Jesus as having not been born of a virgin but as being the son of Joseph and Mary according to the ordinary course of human generation, while he nevertheless was more righteous, prudent, and wise than other men. Moreover, after his baptism, Christ descended upon him in the form of a dove from the Supreme Ruler, and that then he proclaimed the unknown Father, and performed miracles. But at last Christ departed from Jesus, and that then Jesus suffered and rose again, while Christ remained impassible, inasmuch as he was a spiritual being."***

However, did John exclude the Jews from his warning about antichrists? Govett argues that since John said ***"they went out from us and were not of us"*** (1 John 2:19), the Jews have to be excluded because they were not part of the church. This is not supported by logic. John was of the Jews and he was in the church. Besides, not everyone that claimed to be in the church was a true believer or a true Jew, for that matter, much like it is in our own day. Anyone could and still does falsely identify with the church, and these same ones could and do leave at any time for they were/are not one of us. In John's *Revelation of Jesus Christ*, Jesus tells us who the liars are. To the conquerors (overcomers), Jesus said:

'I know ... the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Behold, I will cause those of the synagogue of Satan, who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie...' (Revelation 2:9; 3:9 NASB)

Of the Jews who rejected Him, Jesus said, ***"You are of your father, the devil"*** (John 8:44). Paul adds to our understanding by clearly defining a false Jew (apparent Jew; a liar) and a true Jew (hidden, of the heart).

For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly [for not that which is apparent is the Jew], nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. But he is a Jew who is one inwardly [hidden]; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter....' (Romans 2:28-29 NASB [CVL])

Ignatius (30-107 AD), another contemporary of John, wrote in his epistles to the *Magnesians* and *Philadelphians*: ***"It is absurd to speak of Jesus Christ with the tongue, and to cherish in the mind a Judaism which has now come to an end. For where there is Christianity there cannot be Judaism. ... If anyone preaches the one God of the law and the prophets, but denies Christ to be the Son of God, he is a liar, even as also is his father the devil, and is a Jew falsely so-called, being possessed of mere carnal circumcision."***

It seems just as plausible that John saw the antichrists as those who called themselves Jews and claimed to worship the Father while rejecting His Son as the Christ (Messiah). Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father. It is as simple as that! The Jewish leadership in John's day had not only rejected Christ as King (*We have no king*) but had usurped His throne as they ruled over the people, keeping them from entering the Kingdom of God. As Jesus said: ***"They have seated themselves in the chair of Moses"*** (Matthew 23:2).

The point that I am driving toward is this: John said that ***"from this [i.e., many antichrists] we know that it is the last hour."*** Do we see the spirit of antichrist in our day? Are there Christians practicing a blend of Judaism and Christianity? Is Christian Zionism strong among evangelicals? Has the Catholic church declared the Jews have a special relationship (covenant) with God outside of Jesus Christ? The answer to all these questions is yes.

Dear people, it is time to wake up. There is only one way to the Father, and it is through His Son, the Lord Jesus. It matters not whether a singular Jewish antichrist arrives on the scene or not, for the spirit of antichrist is alive and well. By this we know that it is the last hour! John saw it in his day. How much more do we see it in our day? Let us cast out the bondwoman and her son (Galatians 4:30). Let us embrace the only Begotten Son of God! Let us love the apparent Jews by telling them the truth, and let us turn from Christian Zionism and any blended form of Judaism. We are not a hybrid. We are a New Creation, a One New Man under a New Covenant in Christ Jesus!

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 #08-1413

by – Stuart H. Pouliot

September 7, 2014

Four Blood Moons – "I Love You!"

The last three issues have been leading up to a word the Father gave me on April 14, 2014 in response to a question I asked Him about the upcoming lunar eclipses. The purpose of these issues has been to get the focus off of the modern state of Israel and what God might do in relation to them and the nations. Many things might and, most likely, will happen in the world during the upcoming years, some of which will bring more devastation and destruction to the structures of Mystery Babylon. Israel itself might be brought to the brink of destruction. It might lose land or it might gain land through war. These and many other things are being cited as possibilities.

OK, let us assume the worst; the whole kosmos of man, including the natural world, teeters and totters as if it is about to spin out of control. What is the underlying reason? Has the world simply lost grip on reality? Has the evil heart of man risen to its height of insanity? Is God so mad at the world that He has had enough? Is it His time to scorch and toast the earth?

As I read what some were saying about the rather unique tetrad of blood red moons that will occur from 2014-2015 in conjunction with Passover and Tabernacles, it dawned on me to simply ask the Father for His view on the moons. So, I did ask and the answer was immediate and, frankly, unexpected. I heard: "**I LOVE YOU!**"

Before offering an explanation of what this word means, here is a chart of the tetrad of lunar eclipses along with two solar eclipses, and their relation to the Hebrew feasts.

Blood Moon	April 15, 2014	Passover
Blood Moon	October 8, 2014	Tabernacles (Sukkot)
Solar Eclipse	March 20, 2015	
Blood Moon	April 4, 2015	Passover
Solar Eclipse	September 13, 2015	Elul 29 [Trumpets (9/14/15)]
Blood Moon	September 28, 2015	Tabernacles (Sukkot)

Now, I'll tell you that this does not fit the theology, the prognostication, or the prophecy of the day. When I first heard this word, I could have said to myself that God loves *me* and stopped right there. But I knew it was the collective *you* that was spoken. I could have said that this refers to all the believers, Christians. This is true, but it is not the rest of the story. **God loves the world.** God the Father loves every religionist that has ever lived on earth; He loves every apparent and true Jew; He loves every Muslim; He loves every atheist and agnostic; He loves every unbeliever, and yes, He loves every believer in His Son. He loves the entirety of His creation. Love is written across the entire universe and whatever lies beyond. How can He not love, for **GOD IS LOVE** (1 John 4:8, 16)? His very essence is love.

To the contenders and doubters, yes, there is wrath, and yes, there is judgment and punishment, and yes, there is such a thing as to perish. But all of these actions are with love at their very core. At the core of God's wrath is His passionate, burning, longing love that stretches out, reaches out to mankind through His consuming fire in order to remove all of mankind's carnal, unloving flesh and dead works. Why? So that all will know His love and all will be filled with His love, for God's ultimate purpose is to be **all in all** (1 Corinthians 15:28). To me, His ultimate purpose is for **all (everything) to be new and in love**. At the core of His judgments, which can be like painful punishments, is His loving heart to teach mankind His righteousness, **for when the earth experiences Your judgments the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness** (Isaiah 26:9). For those who perish, it is only for the

age to come (Luke 20:34-38) that is reserved for those who have conquered through the life of His Son and by His Spirit. For **they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed** (Revelation 20:4, 5). The rest of the dead are the ones who perish for the age to come; they will have no part in it but rather will have a part in the second death that ultimately leads to life for all. God's judgments and punishments are never eternal; they are *eonian*, that is, for an age or period of time. There is no eternal hell, a place of literal fire and worms that tortures human flesh. God's divine law of the jubilee demands that a time must come for all of creation and all of mankind to be set free from all debts (wages of sin) and come into the glory of God's Kingdom. **That, creation itself also, shall be freed—from the bondage of the decay into the freedom of the glory of the sons [children] of God** (Romans 8:21 Rotherham).

Well, I could go on with much more along this line, but we need to move on to the connection to the blood moons, the Hebrew feasts, and God's word that He loves us. According to the chart, the blood moons appear in conjunction with the feasts of Passover and Tabernacles. The next one will occur about a month from now on October 8, 2014 which coincides with the beginning of the 7-day Feast of Tabernacles that culminates with the 8th day, **the last day, the great day of the feast** (John 7:37) on October 16, 2014.

Now, I want to make this as simple as possible. This is my take on this word in light of these heavenly signs and the feasts. No matter what happens on earth, even if the sky falls (figuratively speaking) or nations fall or the dollar crashes or you have a bad hair day (O, Lord, no!) or whatever, know this: **God loves you!** Let nothing move you from this glorious truth.

As things on earth get a bit dicey, I believe God would have me relay this to you: "My plan (will) is being worked out on earth as it is in heaven. I am working together all things for good, not only for those who love Me, but for those whom I love. Whom do I love? I love the world. In Christ, I am reconciling the world to Myself, not counting your trespasses against you (2 Corinthians 5:19). Did you hear that? Let me say it another way; I am not reckoning your offenses against you. Period! If I am for you, then who can be against you? Through My Son, His death and resurrection, I am reconciling all things to Myself, having made peace through the blood of My Son's cross, whether things on earth or things in heaven (Col. 1:20). I have made peace with all creation, without exception and condition. When I finished creating, I pronounced that it was all very good. So, in the midst of tumult, even deep darkness and the earth tottering as if drunk, know that My plan is being worked out on schedule, and it will lead to My purpose of ALL in all. **For from Me and through Me and to Me are all things**" (Romans 11:36).

It is imperative to know that it is God's plan, not man's, that is being worked out, and it is being worked out only through His Son and by His Spirit. At times, it seems a bit messy and painful, but let us not forget that the Father delivered His Son over to the cross by His own **predetermined plan** (Acts 2:23) that, by the way, was quite messy and seemed so unjust.

But what is the linkage to the two feasts? Again, to keep it simple; both feasts speak of the love of God and remind us that His plan was and is being worked out through the meaning of these feasts. Passover was a historical event and so will Tabernacles be a historical event, along with Trumpets and the Day of Atonement, which are part of the **Feast of the Ingathering** (Exodus 23:14-17; Leviticus 23). Passover and Tabernacles speak of God's plan to gather all in by making all alive in Christ, each in their own order (1 Corinthians 15:22-23), meaning God is going to bring all into His Kingdom, but there is an order to whom and when. So Passover reminds us of justification by faith through the blood of Christ; and Tabernacles reminds us of the first fruits or barley harvest, the glorification of the sons of God, the conquerors (overcomers) that will reign with Christ for a thousand years; then the wheat harvest and finally the grape harvest until all mankind is harvested unto God to give Him bread and wine for His table and for His glory. There will be no crumbs under God's table. **"Gather up the leftover fragments** (from five barely loafs) **so that nothing will be lost"** (John 6:9, 12).

Dear beloved brethren, here is the message: The blood moons are God's way of getting our eyes on the true meaning of Passover and Tabernacles (including Trumpets). They speak of the ultimate and eventual justification, sanctification, and glorification of all. When you see the blood moons, be reminded, God says: **"I LOVE YOU! MY LOVE NEVER FAILS."**

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 #08-1414

by – Stuart H. Pouliot

September 14, 2014

7-Year Cycles

It is interesting that many are talking about 7-year cycles and how we are either in the midst of one or one is about to end and another start. Some relate these cycles to economics, Stock Market crashes, astronomy, and globalist plans (astrology) to establish their new world order, to name a few.

I just read an article that stated everyone is talking about the 7-year cycle of economic crashes and we are perilously close to a crash. Within these cycles, the months of September-October seem pivotal, especially in relation to Stock Market crashes. These cycles are traced back to 1931 (worst year for the Stock Market crash of the Great Depression) and each successive 7-year period. Thus, we see 1987 ("Black Monday"), 1994 (worst bond market crash), 2001 (recession; September 17th, greatest one-day Stock Market crash), and 2008 (unless you lived in a cave, you know what September 2008 brought to the global financial system). Following these cycles, one must wonder what September 2015 will bring. A recent article was titled: *If Economic Cycle Theorists Are Correct, 2015 to 2020 Will Be Pure Hell For The United States.*

Jonathan Cahn, in his book titled *The Mystery of the Shemitah*, refers to the biblical 7-year cycle leading up to September 13, 2015. The *shemitah* refers to God's command to ancient Israel that they were to allow the land to rest and to release certain debts every 7 years. One of the reasons *Judah* was exiled to Babylon for 70 years was due to their failure to keep this command. By the way, *Israel* had already been cast out of the land and dispersed in Assyria for turning from the Lord to other gods. Jonathan Cahn also highlights the importance of Elul 29, which is the last day of a cycle, the day before Tishri 1 or the *Feast of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah)*. The great Stock Market crash of September 17, 2001 occurred on Elul 29. The next crash that exceeded this one occurred on September 29, 2008, which was Elul 29. Will we see a repeat of this in September 2015?

Dr. Stephen Jones, who has discovered a fascinating array of biblically and historically based prophetic time-cycles, believes that we are coming to the completion of a 21-year cycle (7 x 3) culminating on October 16, 2014 that will then start another 21-year cycle ending in 2035. He sees these cycles as leading to the saints or overcomers taking full authority of the Kingdom on earth. The completion of the current 21-year cycle, which started in 1993, signifies that the scepter (authority) of *Judah* is being given to the saints of the Most High as recorded in Daniel 7. The next 21-year cycle has to do with Joseph and the birthright (kingdom).

Adding to all this, I came across another article about Daniel's 70 weeks (490 years), **metonic cycles** and **embolismal years**. Although I do not adhere to the conclusions of this study, it does offer some further insight into cycles. This is too involved to explain here, but metonic cycles are based on the work of the Greek mathematician and astronomer Meton of Athens (5th century BC) dealing with lunar cycles. Embolismal years refer to an extra or second month of Adar (Adar 2) being inserted into the lunar-solar calendar in order to keep the calendar lined up with lunar cycles. The upshot of this study is that 2014-2021 starts with an embolismic year (Adar 2) and consists of 86 moons (as opposed to 87 moons) during this 7-year period ending at Tishri 2021. This study sees this period as a possible completion of Daniel's last 7 years of the 70 weeks. Personally, I see these years having been completed with Jesus' crucifixion, but the uniqueness of this upcoming cycle makes it rather intriguing. The year 2021 caught my attention.

Add to all these proposed cycles the fact that four Blood Moons will occur in 2014-2015 in conjunction with Passover and Tabernacles and the blogosphere chatter can get quite fascinating, to say the least. Many prophecies are going forth proclaiming a full spectrum of events from doom and gloom for the world to great

times coming upon the church to a full-blown outpouring of the Holy Spirit to all the above. Of course, I have left out the ones looking for the rapture so they can escape this earth, leaving this ol' world behind before things really heat up. This needs to be discarded in the ash heap of the traditions of men.

As for 7-year cycles, it is not surprising that there is so much focus on the number 7. Biblically speaking, the number **7** signifies *spiritual perfection*, which means that when 7-year cycles are in operation, God is at work in some special way and we need to learn His way (plan). There are many biblical examples of the number 7 and its factors (i.e., 49, 490, etc.). In addition, there are 7 Hebrew feasts, often based on 7 days of celebration; there is a 7th day of rest; and there is 7 x 7 or 49 years then a Jubilee. But even the globalists and the occultists use the number 7 and see 7-year cycles. As we have seen, some economists see 7-year cycles in the financial world. Actually, the number 7 seems to be written upon all mankind. After all, we live in time based on a 7-day week, and the entirety of our existence revolves around what we do in these 7 days.

So, where does all of this lead us? I greatly appreciate the work many have done to discern the time in which we live, and I will continue to glean what I can from their studies and discernment. But, at the end of the day, I am going to go with what light I believe the Lord gives me as I seek Him to discern the times. All I know is that I need to keep proclaiming the **Kingdom of Christ** as I see more and more structures crumble and as the Spirit leads. However, in this light, I do have a view that coincides with these cycles, a view that began to develop back in 2008. In February 2009, I posted article #18 titled *When the Day Comes*, in which I summarized what I had seen up to that point. The article could use some updating and a little correction, but it nonetheless serves as a marker for me personally and gives some insight as to why I believe what I do today.

I do believe that God has put 7-year cycles into play in our day. As Dr. Jones points out in many of his writings, we have come and are coming to the completion of many prophetic time-cycles that stretch back 2520 years (7 x 360). However, I see a cycle that he does not. Whereas he sees a 21-year cycle ending and another commencing, I see us in the 14th year of a 21-year cycle that will end in 2021. I have shared on this cycle in several of my writings, including the above referenced article. Most recently, I shared on this in TUC issue #08-1401 – *Thoughts on 2014*. It is interesting that when I look at the life of my wife and me, many, if not all, of our major turning points have followed a 7-year pattern that leads up to and coincides with this latest 21-year cycle.

Now, one thing to keep in mind is that the cycles coincide with the fall feasts of the Hebrew calendar. The month of Tishri is the 7th month of the Hebrew religious calendar and the 1st month of the civil calendar. This month is important, for Tishri brings the 7 annual feasts to a conclusion. The final three feasts commence with Tishri 1, which is commonly called *Rosh Hashanah* or the *Feast of Trumpets*, and proceeds to *Yom Kippur* or the *Day of Atonement* on Tishri 10, and concludes with the *Feast of Tabernacles* running from Tishri 15-21, with the last great day or the 8th day occurring on Tishri 22. As already pointed out, Elul 29 is the day before Tishri 1 and concludes the previous year. This is important, for we need to think in terms of events transpiring within a year that starts in September-October, depending on the date of Tishri 1, which changes each year on our solar calendar. This year the Hebrew year commences on September 25, 2014, meaning Elul 29 is September 24th. All of this leads to an overlap with our normal yearly calendar, so that the Hebrew year starting on the 25th of 2014 runs to September 13 of 2015 or Elul 29.

Given this, when I write of a period from 2014-2015, I am referring to the Hebrew year that commences with Tishri 1 of the first year and ends with Elul 29 or the day before Tishri 1 of the end year.

The bottom-line is this: With the beginning of the 21st century, I believe the world and the church entered into a 21-year cycle divided into three 7-year periods running from 2000-2001 to 2007-2008 to 2014-2015 to 2021-2022. The previous 7-year periods have been punctuated with major world events, and I believe we will see this same pattern appear September 2014 to September 2015, with greater intensity of events, both good and bad, during these next 7 years leading up to Tishri 1 of 2021. We are entering into what could be the most significant period of world and church history. Knowing something of the exact details of what will transpire would be nice, but it is far more important to take heed, keep on the alert. **Watch!** We need to be like the five wise virgins who had extra oil in their lamps. **Behold the Bridegroom! Come out to meet Him!**

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 #08-1415

by – Stuart H. Pouliot

September 15, 2014

Deep Darkness & Glory

In a previous issue I reported that I heard deep darkness had descended on the nations. I am here to report that this is truly good news, even though in its manifestation it might not appear to be so good. As the Lord's people, we desperately need heaven's vision of the events transpiring on earth. We need to see that all is being worked out by God according to His plan of the ages created in His Son and everything is on schedule according to His Appointed Times.

It might seem like evil and the unrighteous are winning, but Jesus declares: "***In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world***" (John 16:33). Soon, the tide will turn and the conquerors (overcomers) will be in the ascendancy manifesting love, peace, and righteousness to the world, for the time is coming for the saints of the Most High to take possession of the Kingdom for all ages to come (Daniel 7:18, 22, 27). We are about to embark on a **War of Peace** that will surpass any and all wars that mankind has ever fought, only this war is not fought by carnal means; it is fought with the heart, the heart of love that truly knows the peace of God that surpasses all understanding, and with the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

O, Lord, ***Your Word is Truth*** (John 17:17)! Jesus, You are the Truth! Make us Your living Word in the earth; make us Your Truth. Lord Jesus, You are the Word of God. You are our Life; we have no other. Conform us to the Word; give us a new language, the Language of Heaven, the language that fully expresses God is love, full of grace, peace, and truth. Your Word is Your Will. Make us Your Living Will & Testament in the earth. Make us the heartbeat of God in the earth so that the peace of God will overtake the world.

I didn't plan to record this prayer in this issue; it came upon me as I was writing, so it seems the Spirit of God wanted it included. I previously wrote that I was given a dream of a War of Peace that coincided with a word Bob Jones gave right before his passing. <http://www.kingdomandglory.com/tuc/tuc606.pdf> We won't be battling a war that leads to peace; we will be warring with peace, which is a totally foreign concept to most of us who have been brought up in a generation of wars being fought with physical swords (weapons) in order to win peace, which has been elusive regardless of how many wars we fight. We don't have to win it; we are being called to express it, to express peace that is already ours and in abundant supply in Christ. Hallelujah!

Now, this is not how I planned to start this issue, but it seems the Spirit wants it this way, lest our hearts become heavy with fear and anxiety. Be of good courage!

Let us start by considering some scripture dealing with deep darkness. As with most things in scripture, there are different levels of understanding.

He who made the Pleiades and Orion and changes deep darkness into morning, Who also darkens day into night, Who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out on the surface of the earth, the LORD is His name.
(Amos 5:8 NASB)

Amos establishes that deep darkness is simply night and that it is all by God's doing. God brings deep darkness and then the morning, and He darkens the day to bring forth the night. God is responsible for darkness and for day, and this establishes His right as Creator and the Sovereign of His creation. God separated the light from darkness, and the light was good (Genesis 1:4).

Next, we discover two references to deep darkness in Job's book. First, in response to his accusers, Job reminds them: **"He reveals mysteries from the darkness and brings the deep darkness into light. He makes the nations great, then destroys them; He enlarges the nations, then leads them away** (Job 12:22-23). As with Amos, Job establishes the Creator's right over His creation, in particular, the nations. He can build them up and He can destroy them, a theme not lost on Jeremiah.

"At one moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to uproot, to pull down, or to destroy it; if that nation against which I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent concerning the calamity I planned to bring on it. "Or at another moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to build up or to plant it; if it does evil in My sight by not obeying My voice, then I will think better of the good with which I had promised to bless it. (Jeremiah 18:7-10 NASB)

But, there is an important word from Job. Out from deep darkness God reveals mysteries, and in this, He shines His light upon the deep darkness to bring forth His light. In other words, within deep darkness are hidden mysteries of God, and it is through these that He brings forth light or, could we not say, truth.

In the next reference, God answers Job with a question: **"Have the gates of death been revealed to you, or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?"** (Job 38:17). Here deep darkness seems to be likened to death. On one level, we could take this to mean physical death. It seems that God was asking Job if he understood death, how dark it truly is, how desperate it is to mankind. On a much higher level, this could be a reference to God's Son overcoming death. ***I have the keys of death and Hades*** (Revelation 1:18).

Next, we come back to Jeremiah where the Lord reminded Jerusalem that their ancient fathers did not question Him when He led them through a land of deep darkness.

"They did not say, 'Where is the LORD Who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, Who led us through the wilderness, through a land of deserts and of pits, through a land of drought and of deep darkness, through a land that no one crossed and where no man dwelt?' (Jeremiah 2:6 NASB)

Deep darkness is a reference to difficult times as they traversed terrain that could have been called "no man's land." As rough as it was, the Lord never left them but instead guided them every step of the way even as they, at times, kicked and screamed. This leads to the last and primary verse that offers us great encouragement.

"Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness will cover the earth and deep darkness the peoples; but the LORD will rise upon you and His glory will appear upon you. "Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. (Isaiah 60:1-3 NASB)

Here, the subject is New Jerusalem arising in the glory of the Lord. We know it is not the old or even the present-day Jerusalem because later Isaiah declares: **The nations will see your righteousness, and all kings your glory; and you will be called by a new name which the mouth of the LORD will designate. You will also be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.** (Isaiah 62:2-3 NASB). John saw this Jerusalem, and he called it **New Jerusalem** as he saw it coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God (Revelation 21:2, 10, 11).

Dear beloved people of God, do you realize we are called to be New Jerusalem? It is not about a literal city of gold streets. It is a people conformed to the image of God's Son, a people filled with the glory of God. Herein lies the good news: As we see deep darkness descend more and more on the nations, rejoice, for the Lord is getting ready to rise upon His people called New Jerusalem, filling them to overflowing with His glory. The mystery of deep darkness is that hidden in darkness is the glory of God, and this glory is now hidden even in the darkness of His people. **But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves** (2 Corinthians 4:7). We are soon to know in experience the power of His resurrection, and when we do, we will know the glory of the Lord has risen upon us. But why? So that the nations will see His glory and be attracted to it until the whole earth is filled with the glory of the Lord.

THE UPWARD CALL

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(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

TUC #08-1416

by – Stuart H. Pouliot

October 4, 2014

Loneliness - Anxious Longing of Creation

When I used to travel a lot, I spent many hours sitting in airports with hundreds, even thousands, of people doing likewise. In spite of all these people surrounding me, I always felt lonely. I felt as if I were all alone in the midst of a sea of people. I wasn't depressed either. Actually, I rather enjoyed it. At times, I even pictured the Lord and me all alone in these crowds. We would walk together through them as if there was only the two of us, intertwined together, braided and folded together as one. So, for me, loneliness is not necessarily a negative or depressing feeling. There are times when it feels right.

I realize that there are some who say we cannot trust our emotions. You know: "You are not to be led by your emotions." Really, who says? Is God devoid of emotion? Where do you think emotions came from in the first place? Can you say, "Creator"? I recognize that we need objective truth, but our experiences and even our emotions somehow must define and explain these truths and make them real to us.

When I read the epistles of Paul, the beloved striving apostle, I see and hear a whole slew of emotions in the midst of great conflict and suffering. Surely, he knew loneliness as he bobbed up and down in the sea, probably wondering where God was in the midst of all of it. Yet, Paul is the one who reminds us that ***love never fails*** (1 Corinthians 13:8). Why? ***God is love*** (1 John 4:8, 16), and God cannot, does not, and will not fail. He must and He does and He will remain true to His very essence, which is love.

Some would say that you are not to get mad at God, especially don't cuss at Him when you are really upset over your life or your perception of God in the midst of some pretty nasty stuff. Well, I have news for you if you think along this line; I have known believers that have gotten so mad at God that they cussed Him out. Strange, but God did not destroy them on the spot. Instead, it seems that He simply listened and then loved them through their difficult time until gold was produced in their lives, and, by the way, they were given revelation of God's plan for all mankind, something that so many mainline believers so rigidly reject. They discovered that God truly is love, and His love will not let any of His creation go.

Well, this is sort of an introduction to what is on my heart. I wasn't sure if I should pass this on until this morning when the Lord told me that there is someone out there in the 7 billion on this planet to whom He is sending this. So, here goes.

On October 2, 2014, my wife and I returned home from a meeting with some brethren. The time was better than usual as some opened up their hearts to the group. However, when we got home that night, I had this same feeling of loneliness come upon me that I have experienced over the years. I shared it with my wife and she had the same feelings. On October 3, 2014, as I sat quietly before the Lord, I felt led to open my journal and write out the thoughts that began to pour forth from my mind or, I should say, my heart. This is what I wrote:

Why do I feel so lonely so often? I have gone through life with this loneliness. Why? Perhaps, the universe is lonely. As I sit here pondering, it comes to me. Yes, the universe is lonely. It must be. All that great expanse is lonely as if it is longing for something; something is missing. The universe can feel it. It is lonely to have that void filled that comes from loneliness. Filled by what? Filled with what? God is love; surely love fills the universe. Perhaps it does, but is it fulfilled love? Is the love of the universe complete? Is it pining for something to express this love, to feel this love, to receive this love, to be filled with this love in its fullest manifestation?

Is this what we all long for? Do we all feel this void? A void that says we are incomplete; we aren't done yet; we aren't fulfilled yet.

All creation is yet in the womb of God. We haven't been birthed yet. We are still in gestation – development. Love knows us for love formed us, and love has kept us and is developing us. But, we are still in the womb. There is darkness in the womb – a sense we haven't come into the light. It is lonely in here, lonely with a longing to be birthed into all that we are meant to be, a longing to be complete, a longing to have this gnawing void filled.

Yes, the universe is lonely, and so am I. I wait with the same longing. But, what is it? Yes, here is the answer.

For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? (Romans 8:19-24 NASB)

I finished writing this at 8.35 am. The Lord often speaks to me through numbers, so I caught the connection right away. The number **8** signifies *new birth, new beginning*, and the number **35** signifies *hope*. Hope for it; it is coming! Yes, it is true. **But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.**

You might say: "Ah, but we are complete in Christ; our lives are now hidden with Christ in God. We are in the Son of His love." Yes, so true; but this is technical truth, objective to its core. We can hold to it, for this is as God sees it. He sees the end from the beginning. He sees all and knows all, and He rejoices in His creation and in His people, His very children. But, we have not caught up to this truth. We are pressing on toward it, to its manifestation in us and through us. Our subjective experience has not caught up to the objective truth. We have not caught up to God yet. But we are pressing on toward the goal.

Although we have the Body of Christ and we need one another, our journey with the Lord is still a personal journey with Him and it is often lonely, as if we are the only one walking this path. This is as it should be, for the Father and His Son have come to make home (abode) in us – in you and in me and in all of us. We are alone to discover God and His Son in us (you and me) and us (you and me) in them. **God makes a home for the lonely** (Psalms 68:6). Yes, He sets up shop, so to speak, in the lonely.

The Lord Jesus often went away from the crowds to be alone, but even in His most lonely hour, He said: **"Behold, an hour is coming, and has already come, for you to be scattered, each to his own home, and to leave Me alone; and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me"** (John 16:32 NASB).

Does your heart know that the Father is always with you; never leaving you no matter what you think, feel, or experience? In times of loneliness, simply fall into His loving arms and rest in His love, allowing Him to love you.

As for me, I am rejoicing in my times of loneliness, for I feel a connection to God's entire creation that is groaning and longing to be set free from its slavery to corruption. We are all in the womb of God, and He is readying us to come through the birth canal very soon to come into the full light of His glory as we put off mortality and put on immortality in the image of His Beloved Son. This is our inheritance – the redemption of our body. We are being called into sonship; sons fully matured that can and will reign with Christ for a thousand years. Let us rejoice, for this temporary void of loneliness will be filled up to fullness with the life of the Beloved, **so we shall always be with the Lord!**

For *All Creation in the Womb of God*, see link: <http://www.kingdomandglory.com/tuc/tuc587.pdf>

THE UPWARD CALL

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(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

TUC #08-1417

by – Stuart H. Pouliot

October 27, 2014

Kingdom Tower

Recently, an article caught my eye about the number of megatall buildings that are either under construction or in the pipeline for construction. For many years the term *supertall* was used to describe buildings that rise into the sky over 300 meters. Today, *megatall* is the latest and newest term to describe buildings reaching 600 meters. In other words, the *megatalls* are double the height of the *supertalls*. The engineering feats of man can be truly astounding!

The Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat issued a report on "The Predicted World's 20 Tallest in the Year of 2020 as of December 2011." According to the report, "in a mere two decades (2000-2020) the height of the 'World's Tallest Building' will have more than doubled." It is significant that this is occurring during this period.

Interestingly, as of 2011, the trend for these mammoth structures has shifted to the east. Asia accounts for 70% of the structures and the Middle East for about 25%, with the remaining in the west. Of the 20 tallest slated to be completed by 2020, 19 out of the 20 projects are in Asia and the Middle East.

<http://www.skyscrapercenter.com/jeddah/kingdom-tower/2>

<http://www.ctbuh.org/TallBuildings/FeaturedTallBuildings/ArchiveJournal/KingdomTowerJeddah/tabid/4415/language/en-GB/Default.aspx>

Now, here is what really caught my attention. See if you catch the significance of this, especially considering where we are on God's clock of appointed times.

The tallest of the *megatalls* is under construction in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Its street address is **Kingdom City** and the structure is called **Kingdom Tower**. It is located near the **Red Sea**, and it is expected "to add prominence to Jeddah's status as **the gateway** to the holy city of Mecca." It has a triangular footprint and is intended to capture the designer's vision that represents "the **new spirit** in Saudi Arabia." According to one article, the primary purpose of the tower is symbolic in order to raise the property values in the area. But, in describing the intention of the tower, the architect, Adrian Smith, is quoted as saying that the tower "*evokes a bundle of leaves shooting up from the ground – a burst of new life that heralds more growth around it.*" What a fascinating quote!

The exact figures on the tower when it is finished, perhaps around 2018-2019, are not known, but it is planned to be at least 1000+ meters high (about 5/8 of a mile) and sit on about 120 acres. A building of such height has never been attempted before. The next highest one is located in Dubai at 828 meters.

My first reaction when reading of these monolithic buildings was to be reminded of the Tower of Babel that was built for man's glory, not God's.

"Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." (Genesis 11:4)

Surely, this same spirit is in the heart of modern man as he builds great edifices to his fame and glory. This was my first reaction, but on further contemplation, I saw this particular *megatall* building and the intent of its designer in a positive light, actually, in a prophetic light. I believe the Kingdom Tower is a prophetic symbol of the soon coming **Kingdom of Christ** or, to use Matthew's term, the **Kingdom of the Heavens**.

Some might respond that these eastern builders are not Christian, so how could a building of this sort be a prophetic sign from the Lord? But first, remember that God is love, God loves the world, and in the proper time, all will see and know this love manifested in and through His Son, the Lord Jesus. Well, the answer is simple. The Lord can and does speak through any and all things as He so chooses. Of course, the most common example many use to make the point is Balaam's donkey. I have learned that if we throw off the shackle that says God can only work or speak through Christians and remain open, we discover that God is speaking to us far more frequently than we ever imagined.

Let us consider some of the numbers associated with this tower.

Biblically, the number **1000** signifies *completeness* and *the Glory of God*. 1000 meters is roughly 5/8 mile. The numbers **5** and **8** signify *grace* and *new birth* or *new beginning*, respectively. We could say that grace over new birth speaks of the Kingdom of God or a new beginning for mankind by the grace of God. The number **120** signifies *awaiting the outpouring of the Holy Spirit*, just as the 120 waited for 10 days in the upper room until the Spirit of God came upon them. The Kingdom of Christ will usher in a 1000-year era in which the Spirit of God will permeate the earth and its inhabitants, **for the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of Yahweh,—as, the waters, cover the sea** (Habakkuk 2:14 Rotherham). Even the thought that the tower might be taller than 1000 meters speaks of the ever expanding nature of the Kingdom of Christ.

For, A Child, hath been born to us, A Son, hath been given to us, And the dominion is upon his shoulder,—And his Name hath been called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty GOD, Father of Futurity, Prince of Prosperity [peace]. Of the increase of dominion, and of prosperity [peace], There shall be no end—Upon the throne of David and Upon his kingdom, By establishing it and By sustaining it, With justice and With righteousness,—From henceforth, Even unto times age-abiding: The jealousy of Yahweh of hosts, will perform this! (Isaiah 9:6-7 Rotherham [NASB])

Another aspect of this tower that should catch our attention is the quoted purpose of the tower's design as seen by the designer. The tower *"evokes a bundle of leaves shooting up from the ground – a burst of new life that heralds more growth around it."*

Is this not a picture of the Kingdom of God coming to the nations of this earth and expanding for the next 1,000 years under the reign of God's Son and His conquerors? The Kingdom speaks of life for all, even a new burst of life, not a rehash or cleaned-up version of the old Adamic life, but a New Creation life, a life based on the last Adam's life, the life of the One who is a life-giving Spirit (1 Corinthians 15:45). Not all will be of this New Creation life at first, for this is reserved for the conquerors or overcomers, the first fruits of what is to come for all. However, the good news is that all of mankind, and even creation, will begin to experience and enjoy this new life, this new Kingdom life, a life of truth, righteousness, justice, and peace until all are fully released into it.

There is more, for as the tower rises into the clouds as if reaching into heaven itself, it speaks of what is not only coming forth from out of the ground but also of what is dripping down from the heavens.

"Drip down, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds pour down righteousness; let the earth open up and salvation bear fruit, and righteousness spring up with it. I, the LORD, have created it. (Isaiah 45:8 NASB)

Lovingkindness and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other. Truth springs from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven. (Psalms 85:10-11 NASB)

This is what is coming to this earth in God's appointed time. The heavens do rule, and this rule will be poured forth from the heavens and spring forth from the earth until the entire earth is full of the glory of God in which righteousness and justice prevail. **He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the lovingkindness of the LORD** (Psalms 33:5). One final point: The Kingdom of God was first manifested in a nation and a people at the Red Sea. The sea of the nations is about to be parted as the gateway for the arrival and ushering in of **the King and His Kingdom!** Be encouraged; it won't be long!

THE UPWARD CALL

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(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

TUC #08-1418

by – Stuart H. Pouliot

December 12, 2014

'In God We Trust' – Are We Living By This Motto?

For many years now, there has been and continues to be controversy over the use of the word *God* in relation to the governance of the United States, and yet, we continue to ask God to bless us and maintain a national motto that says we trust in God. To some, the use of the word *God* is very spiritual or religious; to others, it is an offense; and to others, especially the courts, its use is what is referred to as "**ceremonial deism**," which means the word *God* is simply ceremonial in its use and has no real religious meaning. Further, God exists and created the world; nevertheless, He has not assumed any control over it or the lives of people.

Frankly, we shouldn't really care about all the controversy over the word *God* from man's perspective. **We need to be more interested in God's perspective.** Regardless of what anyone thinks to the contrary, there is only one God who rules over the realm of mankind (Daniel 4:25, 32); just ask Nebuchadnezzar what he thinks of the matter. This poses the question: **How does God look upon a nation with a motto "In God We Trust"? What does He expect of such a nation?** What does God expect of a nation that, according to a 2006 study, has 68 references to "God" in its legislation? Of the 68, 46 are references to "acts of God"; however, the other 22 are more explicit affirmations of the positive role of God in the country.

What does God expect of a nation that, by legislation in 1954, added the words "**Under God**" to its **Pledge of Allegiance**? The congressional house committee that recommended passage of the legislation found: "**Our American Government is founded on the concept of the individuality and the dignity of the human being. Underlying this concept is the belief that the human person is important because he was created by God and endowed by Him with certain inalienable rights which no civil authority may usurp. The inclusion of God in our Pledge therefore would further acknowledge the dependence of our people and our Government upon the moral directions of the Creator.**" This doesn't sound like deism.

What does God expect of a nation that has the phrase "In God We Trust" in the **Star-Spangled Banner**, which was written in 1814 by Francis Scott Key and later became the National Anthem?

What does God expect of a nation that, based on appeals by Christians during the American Civil War, legislated that the phrase "In God We Trust" be printed on some of its coins, and then 91 years later, on July 11, 1956, required the phrase to be printed on **all its coins and paper currency**? Personally, I could do without the motto being on our money, especially in this day of materialism and consumerism and a day in which there is much love of money. As an interesting side note, in presenting the original bill to Congress, Representative Charles Bennett of Florida stated: "**In these days when imperialistic and materialistic communism seeks to attack and destroy freedom, we should continuously look for ways to strengthen the foundations of our freedom. At the base of our freedom is our faith in God and the desire of Americans to live by His will and His guidance. As long as this country trusts in God, it will prevail.**"

What does God expect of a nation whose president, Dwight D. Eisenhower, on July 30, 1956, signed the law making "In God We Trust" the official national motto of the United States? 36 USC Sec 302 simply reads: "**In God We Trust**" is the National Motto. More light is given on the genesis of the National Motto in a statement by the Judiciary Committee that recommended passage of H.J. Res. 396 as recorded in the 1956 Congressional Record.

"At the present time, the United States has no national motto. The committee deems it most appropriate that "In God we trust" be so designated as our national motto. The phrase "In God we trust" has received official

recognition for many years. It was authorized to be placed on certain coins by the act of March 3, 1865 (13 Stat. 518). Further permissive authorization for inscribing "In God we trust" on coins was given in the Coinage Act of February 12, 1873 (17 Stat. 427). The first mandatory requirement for the use of this motto on certain coins was in the act of May 18, 1908 (35 Stat. 164). Last year, Public Law 140 was enacted by the Congress making the use of "In God we trust" mandatory on all currency and coins of the United States. Further official recognition of this motto was given by the adoption of the Star-Spangled Banner as our national anthem. One stanza of our national anthem is as follows:

"O, thus be it ever when free men shall stand
 Between their lov'd home and the war's desolation!
 Blest with vic'try and peace may the heav'n rescued land
 Praise the power that hath made and preserved us a nation!
 Then conquer we must when our cause it is just,
 And this be our motto-'In God is our trust.'
 And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
 O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave."

In view of these words in our national anthem, it is clear that "In God we trust" has a strong claim as our national motto. It will be of great spiritual and psychological value to our country to have a clearly designated national motto of inspirational quality in plain, popular accepted English. ... The committee considers "In God we trust" a superior and more acceptable motto for the United States."

Whether the so-called atheists, the ACLU, or, even perhaps, some religionists do not want any acknowledgement of God in the governance (rule) of the United States, it is quite apparent that there is a preponderance of support and historical evidence that, in fact, God does rule and is even expected to rule in some measure, even if it is to save us from disasters and the like, or to bless us, as in "God Bless America," which means to turn us from our wicked ways. So, whether we mean it or not, or whether we expect it or not, we, as Americans, are imploring God every day to be part of our lives in some measure and are declaring that we trust Him. **We are declaring that we are in His Kingdom and we submit to His sovereignty over our nation!** Are we to think that this goes unnoticed by God? Are we to think that He shakes His head and says that we do not mean it so He will ignore it? Well, even a cursory read of the Bible reveals that God is not an absent landlord and that He takes the word of people very seriously. He listens to our words and then He reads our hearts. More times than not, the two are in opposition. Are we to expect God to ignore this disparity? Do we think that, as a nation, we can fool God? Do our leaders, both of government and of the church-at-large, think they can get away with hypocrisy and pretense; that God is going to ignore it forever? It is time to wake up and turn back to God and His Son!

All of this should remind us of Paul's great speech on Mars Hill in Athens, Greece. He had seen an altar with the inscription "**To an unknown God,**" and he responded accordingly. Read his entire sermon as recorded in Acts 17:22-31. However, consider some excerpts.

(24) The God who made the world and all things in it (26) and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, (27) that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; (28) for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.' ... (30) Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, (31) because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead." (Acts 17:24a, 26-28, 30-31 NASB)

Herein is the answer for all nations. As for the United States, which has a large Christian population, we do not have an unknown God. It is time to match our words with our hearts. It is time to be one nation under one God, a nation that puts its trust in God, a nation that turns from man's ways to God's ways, from man's law to God's Law, and a nation that declares that Jesus is Lord and King. In judgment, let us declare: In God We Trust!

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 #08-1419

by – Stuart H. Pouliot

December 16, 2014

Order of Melchizedek – Healer of Nations

This morning I woke with a word about Melchizedek. Specifically, I was told **that the order of Melchizedek would bring healing to the nations**. It seems to me that this is based on Revelation 21:24. Before considering this word, it is needful to first look at this ancient figure titled *Melchizedek* who appeared on the scene of world history with no introduction or end. Simply, he had no beginning and no end. This king showed up to appear before Abram and departed, and was seemingly forgotten until David mentioned him in Psalm 110:4 and Paul brought him into view once again in the epistle to the Hebrews (chapters 5 and 7).

I wrote an article on Melchizedek that offers more explanation than what follows; you are encouraged to see the following link: *Order of Melchizedek*: <http://www.kingdomandglory.com/art/art29.pdf>

From a historical perspective, it is quite possible that Melchizedek was none other than Shem, one of Noah's sons who came through the flood. Abram was born in the tenth generation from Shem which made Shem Abraham's great-great-plus grandfather. Interestingly, Shem outlived Abraham, meaning the birthright was passed from Shem to Isaac. Abraham did not receive the birthright which goes along with him looking for the city of God but not finding it in his day.

The **Book of Jashar** (Joshua 10:13; 2 Samuel 1:18) records the following that coincides with Genesis 14:17-20.

And Adonizedek king of Jerusalem, the same was Shem, went out with his men to meet Abram and his people, with bread and wine, and they remained together in the valley of Melech. And Adonizedek blessed Abram, and Abram gave him a tenth from all that he had brought from the spoil of his enemies, for Adonizedek was a priest before God. (Jashar 36:11-12)

According to Jashar, this same was Shem and he held the title *Adoni-zedek*, which is made up of two words: the first meaning *Lord (adon)* and the second meaning *right*, as in *righteous* or *righteousness*. *Strong's Concordance* states that it means *lord of justice, a Canaanitish king*, which speaks to the king of Jerusalem in the days of Joshua.

Now it came about when Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem heard that Joshua had captured Ai, and had utterly destroyed it (just as he had done to Jericho and its king, so he had done to Ai and its king), and that the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel and were within their land.... (Joshua 10:1 NASB)

Since Melchizedek was Shem, he was not a Canaanitish king but of the line that would produce the true King of an entirely new order of king-priests. However, this title appears to originate with Shem who laid the foundation of Jerusalem so that the title carried forward even when occupied by the Canaanites. Shem-Melchizedek laid the foundation of the earthly, ancient Jerusalem, just as Jesus-Melchizedek laid the foundation (is the foundation) of New Jerusalem, the heavenly and holy city that has replaced and rendered obsolete all earthly rebuilt Jerusalems.

Melchizedek was king (*melchi*) of righteousness (*zedek, zadok*). He also was king of Salem, which is king of peace. In other words, *Salem* means *peace* and refers to ancient *Jerusalem*, which means *the possession or foundation of peace*. All of these meanings (peace and righteousness) now describe New Jerusalem and its King.

I wrote a **30-part series on New Jerusalem** and compiled it into a pdf book. You are encouraged to search it out at this link: *New Jerusalem*: <http://www.kingdomandglory.com/books/book4.pdf>

With this basic background, let us consider the word given to me this morning in light of John's Patmos vision.

And a temple I did not perceive in it, for the Lord God Almighty is its temple, and the Lambkin [for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple]." And the city has no need of the sun nor of the moon, that they should be appearing in it, for the glory of God illuminates it, and its lamp is the Lambkin." And the nations shall be walking by means of its light, and the kings of the earth are carrying their glory into it." And its portals should under no circumstances be locked by day; for there shall be no night there. And they shall be carrying the glory and the honor of the nations into it, and under no circumstances may anything contaminating, or one who is making an abomination and a lie be entering into it, except those written in the Lambkin's scroll of life." (Revelation 21:22-27 CLV [NASB])

As Paul wrote to the Corinthians, we need to combine spiritual with spiritual or, as *the Numeric English New Testament* says, "**the Spirit teacheth; interpreting spiritual things to spiritual men**" (1 Corinthians 2:13). In other words, we need to be taught by the Spirit things that are spiritual, and New Jerusalem is a spiritual thing. If we approach it simply on the physical level as a literal city of gold, as so many do, we will miss its import, and frankly, God's plan and purpose of the ages, especially the ages to come. After all, John was caught up in spirit and he wrote what he saw, and these things signify something that God wants to communicate to us. As one translation states: **He (God) indicated by signs (symbols) to His bond-servant John** (Revelation 1:1 JM-NT).

New Jerusalem is symbolic of the New Creation in Christ, the very Temple of God. Obviously, John, who knew something about the physical temple of God on earth, was looking for a temple. After all, based on his background as a Jew, Jerusalem, as God's city, must have a temple. But instead of a structure stuck in the midst of a city, the city itself is the temple. The temple is not a structure of bricks and mortar or of literal gold, but rather a community or body of people. This is the Body of Christ.

As Paul questioned: **Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?** (1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19 NASB). Later, Paul wrote that the Body of Christ **is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; being built together into a dwelling of God in Spirit** (Ephesians 2:21-22). This is New Jerusalem in its embryonic, developing form. John saw the birth of this marvelous city.

Some might wonder how this could be since John declared that the temple was the Almighty God and the Lambkin. He didn't say that the Body of Christ is the temple. Actually, I believe he did when he referred to the Lambkin as translated by the CLV. The Lambkin is Christ and His Body; it is *the* Christ, both Head and Body. This makes up the true temple of God filled with His spirit and His glory. New Jerusalem represents the life, the light, and the love of God, embodied by the Spirit of God. The **Second Man, the last Adam, is a life-giving spirit**, and this is the very essence of New Jerusalem, as symbolically represented by the Lambkin. For more on the Lambkin, please see the following link: *Lambkin [Arnion]*: <http://www.kingdomandglory.com/tuc/tuc219.pdf>

The nations walk by means of the light, that is, the glory of the Body of Christ. Remember, it is **Christ in you, the hope of glory**. Glory is more than just light; it is life as God always intended it to be – full to overflowing, immortal, immeasurable, and indestructible.

Here is the key: **The kings of the earth are carrying their glory into it. And they shall be carrying the glory and the honor of the nations into it** (i.e. New Jerusalem, the Lambkin-Temple). The kings that John saw are the king-priests of the order of Melchizedek that go forth to the nations as New Jerusalem. They are the glory of God, and they bring God's glory to all who are outside of New Jerusalem. They are the healing leaves and the fruit of the Tree of Life; they are the river of living water proceeding from the throne of God. They are life-giving spirits that go forth to all who are not of New Jerusalem to bring them life, so that they too will be counted worthy to be the glory of New Jerusalem. This is what it means by the kings bringing their glory into it. This grand labor of love will continue through the ages until all mankind and all creation are brought into the absolute glory of God. Why? So the purpose of God is attained, **that God may be All in All**, all immersed in the love of God. **Behold, I am making all things new!** Hallelujah! Come, King of 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 #08-1420

by – Stuart H. Pouliot

December 20, 2014

Springboard to Union-Life

I am sure we all have internal feelings or sensings when we hear or read something that does not seem right to us. Perhaps, some of my writings hit you that way. That's OK! But, I am referring to more than something "not speaking to us," as if we simply see it differently. Rather, it is a gnawing feeling (sensing) that says something is not right; there is something off about the thing in view. At times, these gnawings are probably what Paul called groanings of the Spirit of God within us. Here are two translations of the same verse.

In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. (Romans 8:26-27 NASB)

Now, similarly, the spirit also is aiding our infirmity, for what we should be praying for, to accord with what must be, we are not aware, but the spirit itself is pleading for us with inarticulate groanings." Now He Who is searching the hearts is aware what is the disposition of the spirit, for in accord with God is it pleading for the saints." (Romans 8:26-27 CLV)

The CLV calls them inarticulate groanings, meaning we feel them but cannot quite explain them. The word *inarticulate* means: "Without the articulation of normal speech; unable to speak clearly or coherently; unexpressed or inexpressible." Personally, this best describes the feeling I get when I have groanings deep within my soul that I cannot explain. It is too deep for words.

I recall many years ago when the concept of ***diversity*** began to infiltrate corporate America, I experienced the groanings. Back then, we all were required to attend "diversity training" courses. On one level (superficial), there was some good in what the instructors taught, but, on a much deeper level, I groaned within, not knowing why. I sensed something wrong or off about the concept but could never quite articulate it, no matter how much I tried. After all these years, I now realize that the problem with diversity as it was taught (or more so, as it is taught today) is that it destroys **our common culture as one nation under God** and is being used in such a way that it goes against God's Divine Laws, especially the **law of impartiality**. Instead of drawing us together as a nation, it has actually torn us apart along many different lines, most notably racial and religious. I don't like using the word *religion* to apply to those who truly believe in Jesus, for they have joined **a Person, not a religion**. Nevertheless, diversity and some of the other modern-day concepts, such as political correctness, separation of church and state, LGBT rights, same-sex marriage, and hate crimes, have now been turned in various ways against Christians so that the scale has been tipped, so to speak, and America is now a full blown post-Christian nation. The diversity movement has destroyed our common culture that was deeply rooted in the Christian faith that was brought to our shores in the 1600s. Today, our Christian heritage has been thrust out of and not included in diversity. There are many reasons for this, one of which many might not like to hear; but one of the primary reasons is that Christians have failed to present the true gospel, the truly **good news of the Savior of the whole world**. Instead, the at-large church has preached another gospel, one that says people must choose between heaven and hell. Well, this is another topic, so I will leave it.

I touch upon America's history and our prophetic historical connection to ancient Israel in **article #63, Abrahamic Covenant**. You are encouraged to read it: <http://www.kingdomandglory.com/art/art63.pdf>

This leads to the heart of the matter. Whenever I hear the word of God (i.e., Bible) mentioned in certain ways, I get this deep groaning that cannot be expressed verbally. Here are two examples. It is not uncommon to hear in certain denominations: "*Pastor preaches the word and only the word.*" When their evangelists are preaching, people yell out: "*Preach the word, brother.*" Or, the one that really leads me to groan of late is when I hear: "*It is all about the word of God. We need to come together around the word; it is the only thing that unites us.*" In other words, the act of opening the word in itself unites us. However, if this were true, why are there so many denominations? After all, many groups meet around the Bible to study and discuss it; yet, the body of Christ continues to be divided along the lines of denominational doctrine and ministerial emphasis.

What needs to be underlined is the danger of taking the words printed on paper and expecting some magical or mystical or inspirational power to burst forth from them simply in the act of reading or preaching them. The danger is seeing every written word having some spiritual power, as if all of them are from the very mouth of God. Of course, some actually are but most are not. But even these can come forth without power.

To the point; how can we believe every written word is inspired when there are over a hundred English bible translations? By one account, there are 115 translations. How are we to account for *man's interpretative bias* built into all of them? And, don't even bother to suggest that the *King James Version* is the only true word of God. A partial blindness has set in for those who believe such a thing. I know that the Spirit of God can breathe on the printed words, regardless of the translation, and bring it to life in a *rhema* sort of way. But then again, the Spirit can breathe on a donkey and speak to us, if need be. Also, I know there are disagreements among various groups over the words *logos* and *rhema*. Further, I understand the arguments about the inerrant and inspired nature of the written word. And finally, I understand the need to study the written word in context and according to the original languages and, I would add, to study it with a historical perspective. I do a lot of this. I get it!

So, you might ask: What is your point? Well, I groan when it seems that the Lord's people talk as if they worship the written word. In other words, they worship words and countless interpretations of these words that divide, not unite. Mind you, I know there are exceptions and all that, but bear with me.

Many years ago, I met regularly with a dear brother and friend in Christ who had graduated from a well-known very fundamentalist university that stresses a legal, literal view of the Bible. One day, I told him that I saw **the Bible as a springboard into God's heart and into His Son**. I thought he was going to have a heart attack. This was so much against his teaching that it was like heresy to him. Don't get me wrong; there is great value in studying scripture, and I do a lot of it. But, in spite of all my studies of written scripture and the thousands of pages I have written based on these studies, I continue to believe the Bible is a springboard. It is not an endpoint, but a starting point to a new life. It is not a closed book of many chapters, but the opening of many new chapters, yet to be revealed. Mere words on paper cannot give us life; only that which is God-breathed can do it.

This raises a vital question: What is the word of God? The answer is not a what, but a who.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1 LITV) ... **And the Word became flesh and tabernacles among us, and we gaze at His glory, a glory as of an only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.** (John 1:14 CLV) ... **That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, at which we gaze and our hands handle, is concerned with the word of life." And the life was manifested, and we have seen and are testifying and reporting to you the life eonian which was toward the Father and was manifested to us." That which we have seen and heard we are reporting to you also, that you too may be having fellowship with us, and yet this fellowship of ours is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ.**" (1 John 1:1-3 CLV)

The Word of God is the Word of Life, and this Word is none other than the Son of God, our Lord Jesus. He is God's Word! **God has spoken to us in His Son** (Hebrews 1:2). It is Jesus who gives us life and who is our foundation in all that God the Father is doing. Thus, the Bible is simply a tool, a springboard to catapult us into His life, so that our new life is not based on words but on the Word, on Life itself, on *being, being in love and being in union with God*. It is to spring us into union relationship with the **Active and Living Creator and Lord and Savior of ALL**.

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 #08-1421

by – Stuart H. Pouliot

December 21, 2014

An End of All the Groaning

Before launching into the word the Lord gave me this morning, I have a commentary to make about prayer. Over the years, as I have sat in times of prayer with others, I have been struck with how seldom the Lord's people ask Him what He thinks on whatever topic is on the table for prayer. Most times, people just jump right in with a standard array of language (words), pleas, and declarations that are common to most prayer times, especially routine meetings attended by the same people. There is a group think that comes forth during prayer. Again, what seems to be lacking so often is a group heart that simply seeks the Lord on a matter, waiting upon Him for an answer. I am not saying this never happens, but in my experience, it is not the norm.

I recall a home-church meeting we were in several years ago. During a period of a few months, there were two people associated with the group that developed cancer. Being a somewhat charismatic-prophetic group, for the first person, the brethren jumped right in with their standard toolkit of prayers, which included yelling at the devil, calling it all sorts of names, declaring it was defeated, and casting the cancer out. By the way, this person refused to accept that she had cancer. The group never honed in on this as an issue, as if it were OK to deny a reality. I couldn't go along with this craziness (my opinion), so I silently asked the Lord: "*What is Your will in this matter?*" Immediately, I heard: "*Unto death.*" She died shortly thereafter. Then, it was announced some time later that a second person had cancer, to which they jumped right in with the same prayers. So, I sat quietly and inquired of the Lord. This time, I heard: "*Unto life.*" Later, it was announced that he got a clean bill of health after he had received chemo and radiation treatment.

Group prayer is somewhat different from personal prayer, for it can be more quiet and intimate as we seek the Lord. Over the years, I have learned that the Lord desires for us to know what is on His heart. For me, this is far more important than lobbing a laundry list of requests and supplications His way. There may be times for this; after all, Paul exhorts us to pray and supplicate (Philippians 4:6), and Jesus says to ask, seek and knock (Matthew 7:7). However, for me, I desire more times than not to know His heart. After all, He knows the innermost thoughts of our heart already, even before we are aware of them or able to verbalize them.

Well, this morning I was being quiet before the Lord when the thought came to me to ask the Lord a question. So, I asked: "***Lord, for what are You longing? You know my heart and longing, but what is Yours?***" The answer came rather quickly. I heard: "***Isaiah 21:2.***"

A harsh vision has been shown to me; the treacherous one still deals treacherously, and the destroyer still destroys. Go up, Elam, lay siege, Media; I have made an end of all the groaning she has caused. (Isaiah 21:2 NASB)

I was immediately caught by the word *groaning*, for this is exactly what I wrote about in my last posting: *Springboard to Union-Life*: <http://www.kingdomandglory.com/tuc/tuc617.pdf> Mind you, I did not know that Isaiah 21:2 contained the word *groaning* until I looked it up. So, I wrote about groaning on the 20th, something that is on my heart, and the next day, on the 21st, the Lord reveals that He longs to end all groaning, something that is on His heart. What a gracious, loving Lord! The Lord took my groaning on a personal level and enlarged it to a global level in light of the day in which we live under bondage to Mystery Babylon. Do you realize that the whole of the earth and of mankind is groaning in various degrees, not just His people that have an earnest of His Spirit? The encouragement from the Lord is that He is going to make an end to all groaning. He longs to fully bring all into His life so that the groans give way to pure joy as all are in full union-agreement with the will of God.

Now, let us consider this verse, both contextually and prophetically, for in it we will see that the groaning that the Lord longs to end has great and far-reaching implications, especially as we near the end of our present age.

Isaiah lived when Assyria was the dominant world power. According to *Halley's Bible Handbook*, "Isaiah sang of the Fall of Babylon a hundred years before its rise." Elam and Media were two nations in the area of modern-day Iran, and the reference to them in this verse points to the conquest of Babylon by the Medes and Persians, starting in 537 BC. Darius the Mede ruled Babylon while Cyrus the Persian continued his conquests. In 534 BC, Cyrus returned and assumed direct rule of Babylon. The Babylonians had caused the people to sigh or groan under their rule, but their 70-year rule was over three years before Judah's 70-year captivity was over (Jeremiah 25:12). It was time for Babylon to be judged and conquered by another cruel ruler. So, the decree went forth: "**Fallen, fallen is Babylon; and all the images of her gods are shattered on the ground**" (Isaiah 21:9 NASB).

Contextually, the Lord spoke through Isaiah that He was making an end of all the groaning that Babylon (she) caused or inflicted on His people. However, prophetically, the Lord looked to a day well into the future, about 2,500 years later, in which another rendition, an end-time version of Babylon called the **Mother of Harlots and Mystery Babylon** would rise and fall. In his Patmos vision, John heard the great cry go forth that an end-time Babylon would fall before the glorious arrival of **the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ** (Revelation 11:15). "**Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird**" (Revelation 18:2 NASB).

There are many interpretations of Revelation 18. Some see Mystery Babylon as a religious system, primarily the Roman Church; others see it as an economic/financial system; some see it as a combination of the two, and others see it as yet future when an antichrist comes on the stage of world history. I, along with others, see it as a present-day reality that has been rising since early in the 20th century, that is reaching (has reached) its peak in our day, and that God is about to crush to dust by the **Stone Kingdom** (Daniel 2:31-35) when He manifests the **King of kings and His conquerors** that will rule in the coming glorious age of Tabernacles.

The world, especially what is called the Western world, is in captivity to this harlot city. The whole world is groaning to one degree or another under the cruel and evil weight of this demonic, unclean spirit-filled system that dominates practically every aspect of life in the world, especially commerce, which includes the religions of men. This system emanates out of the Western nations that once were bastions of Christianity, as well as out of the present-day earthly Jerusalem and its ungodly influence on the world. All have been made drunk with the wine of the passion of her immorality.

For more on **Mystery Babylon**, see **article #9**: <http://www.kingdomandglory.com/art/art9.pdf>

When it comes to God's people that are entrenched in the visible, institutional, at-large church (as opposed to the *ecclesia* Christ is building in heart and in spirit), there are many reasons to groan. What the world and many Christians call the *church* has been seduced by the same unclean spirits that have seduced the kings and merchants of the earth. This church long ago opened its doors for this seduction. It is time to shut down this church, shutter its doors, and come out to the Lord Himself.

Dear people of God, if you are not groaning under the weight of this system, you need to question where your heart is. Is your heart in love with this Babylonian system, its love of money, and all of its idolatry and idols of the heart? Or, have you heeded the cry: "**Come out of her, My people**" (Revelation 18:4)? If you are groaning, be encouraged: **The Spirit intercedes along with our groanings too deep that they cannot be expressed in words. He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God** (Romans 8:26-27). The Spirit of the Lord groans!

But, here is the good news: The Lord is about to make an end to all groaning caused by Mystery Babylon, the Great City, the Mother of Harlots. The Stone Kingdom is coming to grind this harlot, counterfeit system to dust and to release the world and God's people from bondage to this evil system. Until then, we groan along with the Spirit of the Lord as we wait for the glorious appearing of the One who declares: "**I have made an end of all the groaning she** (Mother of Harlots, Mystery Babylon) **has caused.**" **The King is coming!**

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 #08-1422

by – Stuart H. Pouliot

December 23, 2014

"Oldest Verified Man in US Dies @ 110"

I was scanning the titles of news articles and was caught by an AP report that the oldest verified man in the US died at 110 years of age on December 23, 2014. The number **23** can signify **death**, and this man died on the 23rd. But, what really caught my attention was the number 110, which signifies Christ in a very special way, as seen in types (Joseph and Joshua) and in Psalms 110.

What follows is not meant to be some prophetic word, a sign, a word from the Lord, or anything like that. It is simply an observation, perhaps one that can be used as a teachable moment. Also, although what follows stresses biblical numbers, please understand that, to me, numbers in scripture are simply a tool in our search for more of Christ. Some make whole careers developing systematic theologies out of numbers. I have no interest in such a thing and do not advocate it either. God is the mathematical genius of His creation, and we can rejoice to whatever degree we see His handiwork through numbers, but let us guard against worshipping numbers.

Some months back, as I was reading about Joseph and then Joshua, I realized that it is recorded that both men died at the age of 110.

So Joseph died at the age of one hundred and ten years [110]; and he was embalmed and placed in a coffin in Egypt. (Genesis 50:26) ... It came about after these things that Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, being one hundred and ten years old [110]. (Joshua 24:29)

This is significant since both men are types of Christ and His second coming or, as some say, fulfillment of His second work. Interestingly, I did a little research and ran across about six different biblical sites that discussed the meaning of the number 110, but not one of them mentioned these two great biblical figures and types. This seems to be a glaring oversight.

Joseph typifies several things of Christ, one of which is seen in a robe dipped in blood. In order to deceive their father Jacob into believing Joseph was dead, Joseph's brothers dipped his prized robe (coat, tunic), given to him by his father, in goat's blood. For 21 years, Jacob-Israel thought his favorite son was dead. When Joseph was made manifest to Israel two years into a 7-year famine, he became life, not only to his father, but to all his brothers and their families. God had sent him before his brethren to **preserve life**, to keep them alive by **a great deliverance** (Genesis 45:5, 7). This is a typified story of our beloved Lord Jesus who represents both the sacrificial **sin-offering goat** and the **scapegoat** (Leviticus 16:7-10). On the cross, He died as a sin offering (first goat) to atone for sin, but He did not remove sin. When He comes a second time without reference to sin (Hebrews 9:28), He takes away sin as typified by the scapegoat that was sent out into the wilderness. Thus, the One that was dead (shed blood of the first goat) is now alive forevermore, and He is coming to remove the sin nature (scapegoat) from His people. Like Joseph, Jesus is coming to preserve life, to make His brethren alive (immortality) by a great deliverance. The connection between the type and antitype are the robes dipped in blood.

And they took Joseph's robe, and killed a ram of the goats, and dipped the robe in the blood. (Genesis 37:31) ... He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. (Revelation 19:13)

Joshua typifies Jesus in that Joshua led (delivered) the sons of Israel into their inheritance in the Promised Land, just as Jesus will lead His people into the inheritance of immortal bodies (i.e., Promised Land) when He comes to meet His brethren during the Feast of Booths or Tabernacles at the time appointed by His Father.

Further proof of the type and antitype is discovered in the fact that the names *Joshua* and *Jesus* are synonymous. In the Greek, the name *Jesus* (G2424) is of Hebrew origin (H3091) coming from variations of the name *Yehoshua Jehoshua, Yashua, Yeshua, Yeshayahu, or Joshua*. For the name of *Jesus* in the genealogy of Matthew 1:1, *The Sacred Scriptures* (Bethel Edition) uses *Yahshua*, and the *Complete Jewish Bible* uses *Yeshua*. For the title of the *Book of Joshua*, the same translations use the names *Yahshua* and *Y'Hoshua*, respectively, and *The Scriptures* (Institute for Scripture Research) uses the name *Yeshayahu*. Confused? Don't be; they are just derivations of the same Hebrew word. To be sure, the translators have their reasons, perhaps even arguments, for using one spelling over the other. It really doesn't matter for our discussion. What matters is that Joshua is a type of Jesus and the synonymy of their names is one of the proofs.

To add to our understanding, it seems that when the Psalms were numbered by man, the Lord made sure that one of David's most profound psalms that points to Christ and the order of Melchizedek, signifying both His first and second coming (i.e., work), was numbered 110.

The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet." The LORD will stretch forth Your strong scepter from Zion, saying, "Rule in the midst of Your enemies." Your people will volunteer freely in the day of Your power; In holy array, from the womb of the dawn, Your youth are to You as the dew. The LORD has sworn and will not change His mind, "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." The Lord is at Your right hand; He will shatter kings in the day of His wrath. He will judge among the nations, He will fill them with corpses, He will shatter the chief men over a broad country. He will drink from the brook by the wayside; therefore He will lift up His head. (Psalms 110:1-7 NASB)

This is a tremendous psalm that speaks of the new order established by Christ that is spiritually operable today but will be progressively manifested to the nations in the next or oncoming age (eon). So, whether we are dealing with types or the antitype, the number 110 signifies Christ in a very special way.

Now, there is more to glean from the number 110. In biblical numerology, the meaning of a number can be seen by what other numbers are associated with it through division (generally, without fractions), multiplication, or addition. In the case of the number 110, it can be divided by 10 to produce 11 (or, $10 \times 11 = 110$), or by 5 to produce 22 (or, $5 \times 22 = 110$). The number **10** signifies *ordinal completion, perfection of divine order*; the number **11** signifies *disorder, disintegration*; the number **5** signifies *grace*; and the number **22** signifies *light*.

Could we not say that Jesus brings all that is in disorder and disintegration into the perfection of divine order; or the One who is full of grace brings all mankind out of darkness into the Light of God; or by the grace of God all will be brought into subjection (i.e., divine order [1 Corinthians 15:24-28]) by Jesus, the Light of the World.

But there is more; the number 110 is found in the gematria of the Hebrew word for *foundation* [H3245] and the Greek word for *abide* [G3306]. Through Isaiah, the Lord God says: "**Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation** [H3245], **a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; whoever believes will not act hastily**" (Isaiah 28:16). Jesus says: "**Abide** [G3306] **in Me, and I in you**" (John 15:4). John writes: **God is love, and the one who abides** [G3306] **in love abides** [G3306] **in God, and God abides** [G3306] **in him** (1 John 4:16). In Isaiah, *sure foundation* is a duplication of the same word, yielding the number **220**, which, like the number 22, also signifies *light*.

Do you see the signification of our beloved Lord Jesus in the number 110 and its various components?

The oldest known man in the US died at the age of 110. How many in America and the world, for that matter, are like ancient Jacob when he thought his beloved son was dead for a long 21 years? How many see Jesus as a great man who is now in the grave? How many have given up on Him coming again, thus, treating Him as if He were dead? Only God knows! But here is the good news: **He LIVES! He is COMING!** God has laid the sure foundation of the Son of His love and the Light of the World; the One who is full of grace and truth; the One through whom all things will be subjected back unto the Father; Yeshua, the One who delivers us into immortality. Soon, He will be revealed to His brethren, so let us be encouraged. It won't be long!

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 #08-1423

by – Stuart H. Pouliot

December 25, 2014

The Birth of Jesus – September 29, 2 BC

I posted this last year, but it seems appropriate to post it again, since the question of Jesus' birth arises each year around this time. When was Jesus born? Most historians believe he was born no later than the month of October, and not at the end of the year. The following is what I have come to accept.

We need to keep in mind that there were no calendars in use during that era, so we are left to figure it out based on other data and historical records. The calendar, one like we use today, was not even invented until about 500 years after Jesus' birth. In 533 AD, someone named *Dionysius* invented the concept of the Christian era or what is called *Anno Domini* (AD), the year of our Lord. He set the commencement of his calendar at the year 533 because he calculated Jesus' birth as occurring 533 years earlier, which he set as year 1 BC. Zero was not known at that time, so his calendar simply went from 1 BC to 1 AD. Today, most agree that Dionysius was wrong in his calculations, but, at least, it was a good start.

Today, there is still disagreement over the exact date of Jesus' birth, but it seems that one of the best estimates is **September 29, 2 BC, at the time of Israel's Feast of Trumpets**. Some believe that Jesus was born at the beginning of the Feast of Tabernacles and circumcised on the eighth day. Both views have merit, but sorting them out is beyond the scope of this issue, so the curious are encouraged to research this on their own. However, it seems that for the whole of the law to be fulfilled, the more likely date is associated with the beginning of the fall feasts or the Feast of Trumpets, making September 29th the strongest contender, at least as far as I can see.

Scripture gives us some aid in dating the year of Jesus' birth. The following verses offer two clues: the first dealing with Caesar and the other dealing with Quirinius.

Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. (Luke 2:1-2 NASB)

On January 16, 27 BC, Octavian was proclaimed Emperor of Rome and given the title Augustus Caesar. At this point, the Roman Republic ended and the Roman Empire began. He ruled with much skill until he died on August 19, 14 AD. Up until 7 BC, Rome was caught up in war, but this eventually ceased and from 7 to 2 BC, many soldiers were released from military service. Previously, the Roman poet Virgil had written of the coming of a Golden Age of peace and prosperity, and some thought this to be its commencement. At this time, Augustus was considered the Roman "prince of peace." On **February 5, 2 BC**, the Roman Senate gave Augustus the title of "Father of the Country," and passed a bill issuing a decree throughout the Empire that everyone should register their approval and swear allegiance to the Emperor. This is believed to be the enrollment or registration that brought Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem. For a number of years, historians could not figure out the reference to Quirinius, for there is no evidence that he was governor of Syria prior to 6-7 AD. However, new evidence came to light that helped to explain this. It is now believed that he was not governor but was more like a lieutenant governor or procurator. Some translate Luke 2:2 as: "And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius (Quirinius is the Latin form) was ruling or administrating his duties from Syria." It is believed that during the summer of 2 BC, the actual governors were in Rome celebrating the Silver Jubilee (25th anniversary) of Augustus' emperorship. It is quite plausible that Quirinius was ruling from Syria as a procurator (acting governor) from summer to early fall of 2 BC. This is the only time this could have occurred prior to 6 AD, and it was during this time that he conducted a registration-census to ratify the proclamation that August was the "Father of the Country."

The next piece of evidence is discovered literally in the stars, especially from May 19, 3 BC to December 25, 2 BC. During this time, a series of ten very significant astrological events occurred in the heavens that astrologists have calculated with great precision. These were conjunctions of the planets Mercury, Saturn, Venus, and Jupiter, and the star Regulus. These signs were a big deal to the Romans that saw Augustus as the messiah and father of the Roman Empire. Without doubt, these very same signs were significant to some Parthian magi in that same year as they went looking for their King. The last astrological sign of that year was the planet Jupiter that was stationary over Bethlehem on December 25, 2 BC. The Parthians had been following the planet as it tracked westward across the night sky. Most likely, this is the date that they came bearing their gifts for the King, but this was not the day of Jesus' birth; this occurred months earlier.

The fact that Jupiter was the star in view has great meaning, for it was considered the Planet of the Messiah, and the Hebrew name for Jupiter is Righteousness, which is often spelled *Zadok*. This connects it to the order of *Melchi-zedek [zadok]* (Hebrews 5:10). Of course, this speaks of Christ as the King-Priest of an entirely new order.

But, there was much more going on in the heavens in the years 3-2 BC that would have signified to the Parthians that something was up. The aforementioned planets were in conjunction with the most spectacular conjunction occurring on June 17, 2 BC as Jupiter and Venus came so close to each other that they appeared to be merging. The celestial light show must have registered with the magi as a sign that Messiah was being born or about to be born in the area of Jerusalem, the city of Zadok or righteousness. As Jupiter moved away from Venus, the men from Parthia must have realized it was time to move out to locate the newborn King by following the star that would lead them to Jerusalem. It took Ezra about four months to make the trip, so this is probably the length of time they faced as well (Ezra 7:6-9). Perhaps they left around late August. If they had, it would have placed them in Jerusalem later in the year. At any rate, Jesus was born as they traveled to locate Him. As they stood in Jerusalem, they probably noticed that Jupiter had stopped moving across the sky and was resting above Bethlehem. When they located Jesus, He was in a house, not a manger (Matthew 2:11). The shepherds from the field found Jesus in a manger (stable), but He was most likely moved shortly after as someone opened up their house for Joseph and Mary and the newborn Son.

In summary, Jesus was most likely born on the **Feast of Trumpets on September 29, 2 BC** and not on December 25th, which is the date on which the magi most likely met Jesus in a house in Bethlehem.

What does this mean to Christians today? Should we celebrate Christmas on December 25th, or should we celebrate it at all? Should we move it to September 29th? Some say it should be celebrated, for it is a holy day. You know: "Jesus is the reason for the season." Others say, why not; after all, it is a time to be merry and give gifts to one another. Others say it shouldn't be celebrated, for it is a pagan holiday. Take a deep breath and relax! Personally, I don't think it matters much. Since there is no command one way or the other, nor any indication that the early church threw a party, I think it is up to the individual and his or her walk with the Lord. I doubt that God is expecting us to throw a birthday party for His Son, and, if we don't, He will be mad. What about moving the date back to September? Leave it alone! Besides, it seems that the magi bringing gifts on the 25th is more in line with the heart of Christmas.

However, there is something very interesting about the date of Jesus' birth. **In the year 2021, September 29th falls on the day after the eighth day that closes out the Feast of Tabernacles.** This is the 23rd day of the fall feasts and corresponds to the day when Solomon finished dedicating the new temple and everyone rejoiced.

On the eighth day they held a solemn assembly, for the dedication of the altar they observed seven days and the feast seven days. Then on the twenty-third day of the seventh month he sent the people to their tents, rejoicing and happy of heart because of the goodness that the LORD had shown to David and to Solomon and to His people Israel. Thus Solomon finished the house of the LORD and the king's palace, and successfully completed all that he had planned on doing in the house of the LORD and in his palace. (2 Chronicles 7:9-11 NASB)

I believe this is significant, for perhaps it reveals something about the future manifestation of Christ's Kingdom.

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 #08-1424

by – Stuart H. Pouliot

December 26, 2014

Until Shiloh Comes

In one of my latest posts, the number 110 was presented in reference to Joseph and Joshua, who both lived to 110 years, as types of Jesus in His **second coming** or, as some call it, His **second work**. His first work was to die for the sin of the world; His second work is to deliver the world by establishing the righteous rule of God over the nations through His conquerors that will be fully conformed to His immortal image. See *Oldest Man Dies @ 110; the Number 110*: <http://www.kingdomandglory.com/tuc/tuc619.pdf>

Now, in this issue, let us consider another facet of Joseph and Joshua as types of Jesus in His second coming. This is discovered in Jacob-Israel's blessing of his son Judah and the name *Shiloh*.

"Judah is a lion's whelp; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He couches, he lies down as a lion, and as a lion, who dares rouse him up? The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until Shiloh comes, and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples." (Genesis 49:9-10 NASB)

It is here that Judah and his tribe is identified with the lion, prophetically pointing to Jesus. Pilate had an inscription placed on Jesus' cross, written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek, that read **"Jesus the Nazarene, The King of the Jews"** (John 19:19-20). The word *Jews* could have been just as easily written as *Judahs* or *Judahites*. He died as the King of the Judahs. The linkage to the lion of the tribe of Judah is made clear in Revelation.

Behold, the Lion being of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David.... You were slain, and by Your blood purchased us to God out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation.... (see Revelation 5:5-10)

Clearly, all the above referenced verses link Jesus' title as King and the Lion of the tribe of Judah with His first coming. By the way, Jesus' title as **King of the Jews** appears eighteen times in the New Testament.

Take note that in the blessing of his son Judah, Israel indicated the Judah-scepter that Jesus acquired at the cross as King is to be held until Shiloh comes. The scepter shall not depart *until*, meaning there is a future event at which time the scepter of kingship will pass to another with the name or nature of *Shiloh*. Obviously, Jesus does not give up His scepter to another. But, who is Shiloh? There is no one mentioned in scripture by that name. Is this **"My new name"** that Jesus promises to give His conquerors (Revelation 3:12)? How are we to resolve this challenge? The first way is to understand the possible meaning of the word *Shiloh*. The second is discovered in the fact that, although Shiloh is not identified with a man's name, it is the name of a very historic place in the history of the ancient sons of Israel that is also identified with Joseph and Joshua, types of Jesus in His second work.

First, the meaning of the word *Shiloh*: There are differing views among commentators regarding its meaning. According to A.R. Fausset's *Bible Encyclopedia and Dictionary*, **Shiloh** means **"the Peacemaker,"** as it comes from the word *shalah*, meaning "to be at peace" or "to be tranquil or at rest." Thus, prophetically speaking, *Shiloh* is the name of the **Prince of Peace** (Isaiah 9:6), which is in line with the coming of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, to establish His Kingdom of Peace and Righteousness as the King-Priest according to the order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 5, 7). This seems to be the more appropriate meaning of *Shiloh*.

Second, the history of the place called *Shiloh*: Shiloh was where Joshua and the tribes of Israel set up tent after entering the Promised Land and subduing it. It was also here that seven years after entering the land they cast lots for their inheritance in the land. The tribes were divided according to tracts of land.

Then the whole congregation of the sons of Israel assembled themselves at Shiloh, and set up the tent of meeting there; and the land was subdued before them. ... (10) And Joshua cast lots for them in Shiloh before the LORD, and there Joshua divided the land to the sons of Israel according to their divisions. (Joshua 18:1, 10 NASB)

The location of Shiloh has great significance in the scepter departing Judah. Shiloh was in the land of Ephraim, meaning that it was historically and prophetically linked to the name of *Israel*, not Judah. Not only this, but it was located nearly on the border of the territory of Manasseh, the firstborn son of Joseph, as if to signify that it refers to both sons of Joseph, adding more weight to its significance.

Jacob-Israel blessed Joseph and his two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, with his spiritual name *Israel*, meaning **God rules**. "**May my name (Israel) live on in them**" (Genesis 48:16). The name *Israel* is most associated with the birthright that was given to Joseph: **Though Judah prevailed over his brothers, and from him came the leader** [i.e., King of Judah], **yet the birthright belonged to Joseph** (1 Chronicles 5:2) whose name is most associated with Israel, not Judah. Further proof of this is discovered in Shiloh being located in the nation of Israel, not Judah, after Solomon's United Kingdom was split into two nations—Israel and Judah.

The meaning of the **birthright** is too involved to explain here, but the simple explanation is that it signifies **the King and His Kingdom made up of the sons of God**. By right of his birth as a firstborn son, Adam was given two blessings or mandates, **be fruitful and have dominion** (Genesis 1:28), which constitute what is called *the birthright*. This blessing was passed down from son to son until Jacob-Israel, who as the supplanter stole it from his brother and split it between two of his sons. Of course, all of this was according to the plan of God. **Judah** was blessed with the **scepter (have dominion)**, signifying the **King** or **kingship**; and **Joseph-Israel** was blessed with **fruitfulness** (be fruitful), being a **fruitful son** (Genesis 49:22), signifying the **Kingdom of many sons**. At this point, the birthright was identified with Joseph, even though he only had the fruitfulness blessing. This created a breach in the birthright. But it is also apparent that, with his blessing on Judah, Jacob-Israel intended the birthright, both the Kingship and the Kingdom, to be reunited in Shiloh, meaning the breach would be repaired with the coming of Shiloh. There is only one who can repair this breach, and it is none other than Jesus. Consequently, when Jesus comes a second time, He comes as the repairer of the breach, **the Peacemaker**.

So, we have Joseph-Israel linked to Shiloh, who is Jesus, and when He comes a second time He comes to repair the breach in the birthright. As the King of kings, He will usher in the Kingdom of many sons of glory (Hebrews 2:9-13) and manifestly reign over the nations on earth.

But, there is one more type in reference to Shiloh, and that is Joshua, who was an Ephraimite, which makes him a descendant of Joseph, linking him to the birthright as well. Joshua was chosen to lead the sons of Israel into the Promised Land, to subdue it, and divide it as an inheritance for all the tribes of Israel. Again, this took place at Shiloh, the place of peace and tranquility, which signifies the coming Prince of Peace and His Kingdom of Righteousness and Peace. In a much greater type, this speaks of Joshua-Jesus delivering His people, His Body, into their new land of immortal bodies, which is their inheritance in the Kingdom of God. This is part of the second work of Christ when He comes at the end of this age to resurrect and transfigure His conquerors into His image, redeeming their bodies by transfiguring them into immortality and then seating them on His throne to reign with Him for a thousand years of righteousness, justice, and peace.

As a closing thought; the word *Judah* appears twice in the *Revelation* (5:5; 7:5), both in reference to conquering or overcoming. The word *Lamb* or, as the *Concordant Literal Version* translates it, *Lambkin* appears thirty times. See *Lambkin*: <http://www.kingdomandglory.com/tuc/tuc219.pdf>

It would appear that on the other side of conquering (i.e., the side of immortality), the conquerors have the nature of a little lamb. **Perhaps Shiloh is the Lambkin!**

Until Shiloh comes, let us practice righteousness and peace in our daily lives. We may yet have things to conquer in our lives, but as the glorious **Day of Christ** draws near, let us desire to be in the image of the Lambkin and wage a war of peace. See *War of Peace*: <http://www.kingdomandglory.com/tuc/tuc606.pdf>

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 #08-1425

by – Stuart H. Pouliot

December 27, 2014

Great Commission – To All the Nations

This issue is an abbreviated version of this subject, as presented in article #64. See link for a more complete presentation: *Fullness of the Nations*: <http://www.kingdomandglory.com/art/art64.pdf>

And approaching the Jesus, spoke to them, saying: Has been given to me all authority in heaven and on earth. Go forth disciple All the nations, immersing them into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; teaching them to observe all things which I have enjoined upon you. And behold, I am with you all the days, till the end of the age. (Matthew 28:18-20 Diaglott-NT)

What follows does not negate or argue against the need to reach individuals and disciple them to Christ, and, by the way, not to man's ministry or emphasis. What is proposed is that the so-called *great commission* is much more than this; it is about reaching nations. It is a call to change the heart and mind of nations and to teach them about God's Kingdom of Peace and Righteousness. This type of discipling has pretty much failed in our present age. The good news is that it will kick into high gear, so to speak, in the next age with the manifestation of the sons of God, the rulers of the Kingdom of Christ. It is proposed that this is what Jesus had in view when He commanded His disciples. Let us underline a few points.

All Authority

First, Jesus has been given all authority in heaven and on earth, a fact reiterated by Paul and Peter.

When ... He seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named.... He put all things in subjection under His feet.... Who is on the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, messengers and authorities and powers, having been made subject unto him. (Ephesians 1:20-22 NASB; 1 Peter 3:22 Rotherham)

Teach All Nations

Second, Jesus commanded His disciples to go forth as teachers, as ones who teach all the nations. **To disciple** means **to teach**, which is more than making people into something called a *disciple*. It is more about them coming to know the One who has all authority in heaven and on earth and to come under this authority as a nation.

A National Commission

Third, since Jesus referred to *all the nations*, this raises the commission to a national level, and not so much the individual level. It is a much higher level command than simply going forth to preach the good news to individuals or to tell people how to "get saved" or about the "church." It is a command to reach the nations of the world; to reach the kings, the princes, the presidents, the legislators, the administrators, etc. to teach them God's way of governing according to His Divine Law, not man's law. It is to teach them about God's judgments, so that they will learn righteousness and how to govern the people of the earth with righteousness, justice, impartially, mercy, etc. Only in this way will the nations and its citizens learn that God's way is the best way and that God's love for all mankind is perfect and it will never fail to produce **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law** (Galatians 5:22-23).

Immersing Them (Nations)

Fourth, the nations are to be *immersed*. The above translation was chosen for its use of the word *immersing* rather than *baptizing*, which most identify as the ritual of immersing new believers in water. Without negating the need for individual baptism, it is proposed the commission immersing is on a much higher level. Taking the macro view of Jesus' command in light of all the nations, it seems just as likely that He commanded that the nations be immersed in the name of God the Father and His Son, Jesus, recognizing that the heart of the Kingdom of God is spiritual; it is a spiritual Kingdom led by the Spirit of God. This was Jesus' way of telling us to immerse the nations in the spiritual Kingdom of God; fully dip them into God's way. The result will be that the nations will have the name of God written upon them. Simply, they will be God's people and citizens of His Kingdom.

Observe All

Fifth, the nations need to be taught **to observe all**, or as one translation states, *keep the rules*. The word *observe* comes from the Greek word *tereo*, which means "to watch over, guard, or in a deeper sense, to keep, to observe, give heed to." Given this, the command is to teach the nations all that they need to know to keep or guard. From a national level, this *all* must pertain to the Divine Law of God, for it is the only way that a Kingdom nation knows how to rule or govern righteously. The Spirit of God is presently putting the laws of God into minds and hearts, so that **"they shall no more teach each one their neighbor, and each one his brother, saying, Know the Lord; because all shall know Me, from the least of them to their great ones"** (Hebrews 8:11). This is the hope set before all mankind. When all know the Lord in this fashion, then the Son will **hand over the Kingdom to the God and Father** (1 Corinthians 15:24). But to reach this end, the Israelite nations must be taught and immersed, taking on the name of God, meaning they must submit to His sovereignty and come under the rule of Jesus the King.

With You

Sixth, Jesus has promised to be with all who teach the nations, meaning those who go forth as led by His Spirit will have no fear and will bear the fruit of the Kingdom. He is invested in this commission to reach the nations and bring them into His Kingdom.

To the End of the Age

Seventh, this commission goes to the end of the age. But, to what age is Jesus referring? Recall that Matthew was written to Jews and that it deals with the **Kingdom of the Heavens** that they were looking for to come about in their day through a political Messiah. They were looking for a new age, a Messianic Age. To the Sadducees' question about the resurrection, Jesus spoke of that Age (Matthew 22:23-32), which will occur at the end of our present age or, if you will, with the commencement of the next age. It is possible, even likely, that Jesus included our present age and that Age in His commission. Jesus was looking to the end of the seventh day, which is His 1,000-year reign over the earth with His conquerors seated upon His throne. It is during the next age that the nations will truly learn God's righteousness and how to govern according to His Divine Law, for the conquerors will teach *all* the nations to observe *all* the law that has been written on their hearts. Today, we can only achieve a limited level of success that, as the end of our present age draws near, seems to be more on the order of failure than success. However, in that Age, there will be far more success than failure, for **then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the Kingdom of their Father** (Matthew 13:43). This will be the age of the great harvest that many are mistakenly looking for in our present age. The great harvest will be when **the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea** (Habakkuk 2:14).

Jesus' Great Commission is a command to teach the nations of the earth the truth of the Kingdom of God, or more specifically, the Kingdom of Christ, or as John penned, the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ.

Christ's commission to all the nations will not fail. Be encouraged, the best is yet to come.

It shall be done, all to the glory of God.

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 #08-1426

by – Stuart H. Pouliot

December 28, 2014

Fullness of the Nations

What follows is an abbreviated version of this subject, as presented in article #64. See link for a more complete presentation: *Fullness of the Nations*: <http://www.kingdomandglory.com/art/art64.pdf>

In Romans 11:25, what does Paul mean by the phrase *until the fullness of the nations has come in*? Was he referring to non-Jewish nations, that is, gentiles, as so many translations imply? What follows proposes that Paul actually referred to the house of Israel that was dispersed among the nations and gradually became known by other national or ethnic names, many of which became Christian nations, especially in the Western world.

We need to throw off the tradition of men that sees the word *Israel* through the lens of a single nation, most notably the ancient one that was located in Canaan and the one now sitting in the Middle East that is misnamed *Israel* and presumed to be made up of blood descendants of Jacob-Israel.

When Jacob was sick, Joseph went to see his father, along with his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. Jacob took Joseph's sons to be his own as Reuben and Simeon were his own and blessed them with his spiritual name *Israel*, meaning "God rules."

"The angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and may my name [Israel] live on in them, and the names of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and may they grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth."
(Genesis 48:16 NASB)

Although Manasseh was the firstborn, Israel placed Ephraim before his brother so that he would have the greater blessing, at least in terms of numbers.

When Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on Ephraim's head, it displeased him; and he grasped his father's hand to remove it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head. Joseph said to his father, "Not so, my father, for this one is the firstborn. Place your right hand on his head." But his father refused and said, "I know, my son, I know; he also will become a people and he also will be great. However, his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his descendants shall become a multitude of nations." He blessed them that day, saying, "By you Israel will pronounce blessing, saying, 'May God make you like Ephraim and Manasseh!'" Thus he put Ephraim before Manasseh. (Genesis 48:17-20 NASB)

Ephraim was blessed to become a multitude of nations, not one nation, and was blessed, along with his brother, to possess the name *Israel*. Manasseh was blessed to become a great people, and his nation would be Israelite, along with all of Ephraim's nations. Together, they would all be identified with the name *Israel*. Thus, the stage was set for not only one nation called *Israel* but for many nations that are *Israel*, regardless of whether they are called by this name or by any other name.

But how did these two brothers become a multitude of nations known as *Israel*? It started when the Lord scattered the house of Israel. The Lord told Moses and the sons of Israel that, if they rebelled against His commands or were unfaithful to Him, He would scatter them among the nations (Leviticus 26:33; Nehemiah 1:8); a warning that He repeated many times. Israel failed and was cast out of the land and scattered among the nations, just as the Lord had promised. Although this might seem to be a great tragedy, it actually was part of the plan of God to bring forth a multitude of nations that would be a blessing to all the nations on earth.

This scattering was a sowing; something revealed through Hosea the prophet when the Lord commanded Hosea to take a wife of harlotry who gave birth to a son.

And the LORD said, "Name him Lo-ammi, for you are not My people and I am not your God." (Hosea 1:9 NASB)

Israel was to be scattered among the nations without a name identifying them as belonging to the Lord. In other words, "You are not My people."

Yet the number of the sons of Israel will be like the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered; and in the place where it is said to them, "You are not My people," It will be said to them, "You are the sons of the living God." And the sons of Judah and the sons of Israel will be gathered together, and they will appoint for themselves one leader, and they will go up from the land, for great will be the day of Jezreel. (Hosea 1:10-11 NASB)

However, it is among the nations as "not My people," that it would be said of them **"You are the sons of the living God."** As the Sower, the Lord scattered Israel throughout the earth in order to reap a great harvest in the world. Even though it is plainly presented in scripture, it appears that even in our day, this is not well understood or acknowledged. Today, the ones who identify with "My God" are what the world calls *Christians*.

And I will sow her to Me in the earth. And I will have mercy on No Mercy. And I will say to Not My People, You are My people! And they shall say, My God! (Hosea 2:23 LITV)

The same picture is given of this sowing in the parable of the Sower in which Jesus sows the good seed in the field, which is the world, in order to reap a great harvest of sons of the Kingdom (Matthew 13:18-23; 37-43). Thus, the sowing is to produce sons, which is what *Ephraim* signifies.

When His disciples questioned why He spoke in parables regarding the **Mysteries of the Kingdom of the Heavens**, Jesus responded by telling them Isaiah 6:9-10 was being fulfilled. The people were blind, deaf, and dull (Matthew 13:10-17). Paul picked up this theme in Romans 11:25 by declaring that a partial hardening has happened to genealogical Israel. They were blind to the truth. But why? It was so the scattering would continue until the appointed time set by the Father, which is when the promise to Ephraim is completed. The sons of Israel had to become as the sand of the sea; a reference to the many nations.

Down through the millennia, the house of Israel that was scattered in the earth has become many nations. Undoubtedly, countless descendants of Israel helped to form many of the nations on earth today, especially those that sprung up in Europe and in other lands, such as North America, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa. Only God knows how the sowing has progressed and through whom, so this is not an exclusive list. But the point is that the fullness of the nations refers to the nations (plural) of Israel coming forth out of the earth, which, in turn, means that these nations must be brought into the Stone Kingdom with Jesus as King, until the Kingdom fills the whole earth (Daniel 2:35).

Keep in mind that becoming an Israelite, on an individual level, is not a matter of bloodline but of a changed heart, one that believes on Jesus and declares Him to be Lord and King, even though many of the Israelite nations might have been founded or colonized many centuries ago by blood descendants of Israel. **It is not about a gene pool; it is about a heart pool.** On the national level, a nation becomes one of the nations of Israel by coming under the sovereignty of God and declaring His Son Jesus as King over the nation. Based on its founding, the United States had great potential of this happening, but like all that have gone before, we too have failed. Why? So that **He may show mercy to all** (Romans 11:32)!

Only when all the nations have come into the Kingdom of Christ to become Israelite nations will Paul's prophetic word be fulfilled: **So all Israel will be saved.** Thus, the fullness of the nations refers to the full complement of the nations coming under the Kingship of Jesus. This is the true Israel on a national level; the nations that declare God rules and willingly submit to His righteous rule.

THE UPWARD CALL

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IN CHRIST JESUS.*

(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

TUC #08-1427

by – Stuart H. Pouliot

December 29, 2014

Come Out of Her, My People

Dear brethren, as we close out 2014 and enter a new year, and, perhaps, reflect on what has transpired, both good and bad, let us be clear that the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ has not been manifested to the world yet. I know the counter argument that the kingdom is within us, and I don't disagree. However, we cannot look at the nations, especially America, and proclaim that Jesus has been given His rightful place as King of the Nations and King of the Ages by the leaders of the world. If anything, they are proclaiming themselves to be little gods who reign over the people of the earth. It seems as if it is locked into perpetuity that life goes on from year to year with its ups and downs as if nothing really changes. As the Lord spoke through Solomon: "**Vanity of vanities," says the Preacher, "Vanity of vanities! All is vanity"** (Ecclesiastes 1:2).

In spite of all this, there is good news. Life will soon change for this earth, and this change will progress until the glory of God fills the whole earth and great blessing comes to the nations as they come under the reign of God's King and His many sons of glory. What is vanity today will give way to the glory of God in the ages to come.

However, this glory has not been manifested yet in such a way that the nations recognize it. The nations continue to live in deception as they are seduced by the **Harlot** called **Babylon the Great** (Revelation 17:4-5). This city is identified as a mystery or secret, meaning the very ones held captive to this seductive, immoral spirit do not recognize it or their captivity to it. Many are looking for this mystery city to be revealed in the future, yet the secret is that it is with us today and the whole world is being held captive to it. John heard a voice from heaven command: "**Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues; for her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.**" (Revelation 18:4-5)

It is a fact that in ancient days, God sent His people into captivity for breaking their covenant with Him. He raised up enemies to chasten His people in order to turn them back to Himself. He even became the enemy of His own people. When the people repented, that is, changed their minds and ways back to God, then He removed the yoke of bondage to their enemies. He set them free. However, fighting against God's judgments as if He were not inflicting them upon His people is a gross error. You might recall that in Jeremiah's day, those who fought against God's judgment and refused to go into captivity to Babylon were destroyed. God had allotted a 70-year captivity that could not be turned back. The people were told to submit to the rule of Babylon, and if they did, they would prosper. Many prospered during their captivity so that when the appointed time came to return to Jerusalem, many did not. Why leave the comfort of Babylon and return to the ruins of an old city?

Fast forward to our day; starting in the last century, it would appear that God began to yoke the world to this mystery city, a worldwide counterfeit system to His Kingdom and His divine rule of law. If so, then the world, including America, is under the judgment of God. He didn't place us under an iron yoke where we were removed from our land. Instead, we were placed under a wooden yoke with foreigners ruling over us in our midst. This system is so pervasive that nothing has been left untouched by it, even the visible church. Of course, nothing touches the *ecclesia* that Christ is building.

This is the mystery that God has kept the world, even many of His own people, from seeing. Why? Perhaps, many would have been like ancient Judah who refused God's judgments by not submitting to their captors. In other words, many would have fought back, which would have been tantamount to fighting with God Himself. In His mercy, He has blinded the masses, even many of His own, to this secret hidden in what is called *a great city*. God

has placed the world in bondage to this **mystery, Babylon the Great**, until His appointed time, which is also a secret. So, we wait! Personally, I do not believe it will be a long wait.

Now, according to John, the voice from heaven calls for God's people to **come out of her** (i.e., the Harlot). However, how do we come out of something to which God has yoked us without knowing the appointed time of captivity? If we come out before the appointed time, are we fighting against God? And yet, there is another way to come out of it, and that is by changing our mind and heart back to God in what is called *repentance*. The two actually go hand-in-hand. The captivity is to drive people back to God when they see that their captors do not love them and do not have their best interests at heart. Only God does! In fact, no matter how prosperous one might be in captivity (e.g., thriving 401K accounts, or government entitlements), the taskmasters, in some measure, are still cruel and deceptive, for they are out for their own gain, often at the expense of the masses.

Again, how do we come out of her? How does anyone come out of something that rules the world and, in some measure, has infected every institution on earth? Where do we go? Do we become a prepper and live in some cave or mountain retreat hidden in the woods? To be sure, some are attempting this, but most cannot and will not. We cannot fight our way out, for the odds are not in our favor. Besides, we are called to be **peacemakers** and our war is one of peace through spiritual, not carnal, means. How are we to heed this word?

I propose that this is not a call of action on the part of God's people, or anyone for that matter. I believe this call to come out is the Lord's promise to His people to deliver them out of Babylon. It will fall, and we will come out of it when it does. This is like the call to Lazarus who was wrapped in the death cloth: "**Lazarus, come out**" (John 11:43). Lazarus had no way out of death. He was held captive in the grave clothes. If the Lord Jesus had not called him, he would have remained dead. In like fashion, unless the Lord calls us out and removes us from the bondage of Babylon, we will remain in it. He must call us forth and remove the grave clothes. The fact of the matter is that, when He comes, the "alive and remain" conquerors will exchange their grave clothes for glory clothes as they put off mortality and put on immortality. What a glorious thought!

One of the most notable examples of deliverance from bondage was the removal of ancient Israel from slavery in Egypt. The Lord heard the groaning of the sons of Israel (Exodus 6:5) and the call went forth: "**Let My people go, that they may serve Me**" (Exodus 9:13). And so it will be at the end of the eon in which we live. Are you groaning to be set free? If you are, there is good news.

A harsh vision has been shown to me; the treacherous one still deals treacherously, and the destroyer still destroys. Go up, Elam, lay siege, Media; I have made an end of all the groaning she [Mystery Babylon] **has caused. (Isaiah 21:2 NASB)**

This verse speaks of the fall of Babylon, both the ancient and the modern-day one. A day is coming when Jesus will put an end to all the groaning.

At the Father's appointed time, our beloved Lord Jesus will arrive for His people during the fall harvest feasts and the shout will go forth and the trumpet of God will sound, and all the dead in Christ who conquered will rise in the first resurrection and, along with those who are alive and remain who conquered, will be transfigured and glorified as Christ is glorified. They will put on the image of the *Celestial* (Heavenly) One. During this period of time, Babylon, *the great city*, either will have already fallen a relatively short time before or will fall the same week or day when the trumpet of God sounds; the world will be introduced to the sons of glory that will lead them to the Lord and His ways of righteousness, peace, justice, and mercy, and for the first time, they will see the true love of God manifested in and through a people in the likeness of Christ, the very Son of God's love.

With the world's Babylonian system in total collapse, the leaders of the world will be ripe to hear the ways of the Lord from a people who know Him, know His ways and laws, and know His love, righteousness, justice, and mercy. They know the life of BEING! Until then, seek for more of the heart and mind of God. Even though we are held captive by the Harlot-system, we must not embrace its heart or mind. We have the mind of Christ and the love of God that has been poured out within us. Set your mind above where Jesus is seated (Colossians 3:1-7).

THE UPWARD CALL

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IN CHRIST JESUS.*

(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

TUC #08-1428

by – Stuart H. Pouliot

December 30, 2014

Clear the Foundation

According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. But let each man be careful how he builds upon it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 3:10-11 NASB)

The very first issue of *The Upward Call* was written in 1998, and it was on this very subject.

In constructing any type of building, the most important part of the structure is the foundation because the whole weight of the building must rest on it. The foundation is everything. If the foundation is not built properly, then the building will not withstand the many forces of nature that might come against it, such as wind, rain, temperature extremes, or violent shaking of the ground due to earthquakes. The type of soil or rock the foundation is set in, the depth of the foundation, and the material used to construct the foundation determine its strength and the fate of the building. Foundations that are built in sand, are not dug very deep, or are constructed of inferior materials are most vulnerable to all the stresses placed on them. If the foundation is faulty, then the building will not stand. Ultimately, if not built properly and not made of the right material, the whole building will collapse if the forces of nature shake or stress it sufficiently.

We are living in days of shaking, and every created thing that can be shaken will be shaken so that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. Why? We receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, and that kingdom is the **Stone Kingdom** that is built on **the Rock** (Daniel 2:35; Hebrews 12:26-29).

There is only one foundation that can and will withstand the shaking; it is none other than our Lord Jesus. God's foundation is Christ, and all that is built upon Him shall remain. If it is not built upon Him and is not built of His character, then it will crumble and in the last day it will come short of the glory of God. There is only one true foundation, and we need to be built upon Him alone and with His life.

In fact, He is more than just the foundation. Christ is the whole building. It is Christ all in all. He is the foundation, the cornerstone, the top stone, and all the materials of God's great building project called **New Jerusalem**. Christ is the One who fills all in all (Ephesians 1:23). We must be clear that anything built upon a foundation other than the foundation of Christ will crumble in the Day of Judgment.

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts upon them, may be compared to a wise man, who built his house upon the rock. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded upon the rock. And everyone who hears these words of Mine, and does not act upon them, will be like a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and it fell, and great was its fall." (Matthew 7:24-27 NASB)

These words were spoken after the Lord had said that not everyone who says, "Lord, Lord," will enter the **Kingdom of the Heavens**, but only those who do the will of God the Father who is in heaven. If we are not doing according to the will of the Father, then we are building on sand and in that day we will have regret. All who believe on the Lord Jesus have the promise of immortality one day, but not all on the same day, as a free gift by grace; but entering into the kingdom in the next eon, that is, receiving eonian life, is based on obedience to God's will. It is a matter of reward for an overcoming, conquering life (Revelation 2-3).

As I listen to what is coming forth from the pulpits and the multiple forms of Christian media today, I get this groan within me. I feel that there is a great divide between what God is doing and what His people are doing. There is a disconnect, and the church, especially its leadership, is lost in a sea of confusion that is built upon and encouraged by the flesh of men. The church is Laodicean in character as she has been seduced by the Harlot called **Babylon, the Great**. The meaning of the word *Babel* or *Babylon* is confusion.

Is not the church of our day in confusion? The church-at-large is so divided over so many things, teaching so many things, emphasizing so many things, and building so many things that, if it were all put together, it would leave our heads spinning in a vortex with no way out. Add to this the traditions of men, and the situation becomes even more distressed. The Lord Jesus stood against the precepts of men (Mark 7:6-9). They are a mighty powerful force that keeps the Lord's people from pressing on toward the goal and being readied for Tabernacles. Many are looking either to die and go to heaven or to escape this earth in the so-called "rapture" and leave the rest of mankind to rot in man's hell. What is the answer to *babel*?

First, we need to **clear the foundation**.

When the remnant of Judah was called out of Babylonian captivity, they returned to Jerusalem that was in ruin. The temple had been destroyed and was left a pile of rubble. Under the leadership of Zerubbabel, the remnant was called to rebuild the temple, the house of God. But before they could start the work, they had to clear away all the waste material. Why? Because underneath all the ruin lay the place of the original foundation. They had to remove all that was hindering their view so that they could start the work of restoring the foundation and rebuilding the house of God.

We must do the same if we are to be about our God's business. God has laid the foundation. It is not in need of repair, but we must dig down to be built upon it. The *it* is a *He*, and His name is Jesus-Yeshua. We must sweep aside all our ambition, our name, our title, our position, our energy, our desires, our natural ability, our resources, our ingenuity, our purpose, plans, and strategies, and, most of all, our traditions, and anything else that is of our old fallen nature and not of God. It is time to sweep it all clean and see our Lord who is our foundation!

Second, we need to **clarify the foundation**.

Clarify means "to be free of confusion," "to become clear," or "to have clarity," meaning we need to be abundantly sure that all we do, both collectively and individually, is based on the foundation of Christ. We need to be sure that we are doing the will of God and that what we are doing is according to the character of Christ, expressed by the fruit of the spirit and substantiated by the word of God. Is it of Christ, or is it of man? Are we building with gold (divine love), silver (righteousness), and precious stone (fruit of the spirit), or are we building with wood, hay, and straw (i.e., the materials and character of the flesh) (1 Corinthians 3:12)? Are we resting in the Lord, waiting on the Father, seeking to know what He is doing, and then responding only as His spirit leads?

To clarify the foundation, we need vision, something that seems to be so lacking in our day. Oh, the Lord's people talk a lot about vision and strategy and act out of these things, but are these things of the Lord or of their own doing? Where there is no vision, that is, spiritual, heavenly vision, the people perish. Without vision, we will be swept off the foundation of Christ and onto a faulty foundation. What is vision? It is seeing something with the eyes of our heart. It is spiritual sight based on God's word as revealed by the spirit of truth. Paul prayed for the Ephesians that the eyes of their heart would be enlightened (Ephesians 1:18). If there is cloudiness in our vision, then we must fervently seek the Lord to open our spiritual eyes to see more clearly and to give us clarity. As David said: "**Thy face, O LORD, I shall seek**" (Psalm 27:8). To the Laodicean church, the spirit of God says **to buy eyesalve to anoint your eyes, that you may see** (Revelation 3:18). We need to buy while it is still today.

Let us not live in the ruins of wood, hay, and straw. Let us clear and clarify the foundation. Let us set our lives on the firm foundation of Jesus the Christ and build our lives upon His character.