

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)

#02-08120

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SUCH GREAT WEALTH HAS BEEN LAID WASTE!

Since the beginning of the year, I have been writing to encourage all that have an ear to hear that the kingdom of this world is about to become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ (Revelation 11.15). However, before our Lord's kingdom or, as I often state, *the reign of the heavens* comes to this earth to establish true righteousness, justice, and peace, there will be much shaking, for we receive a kingdom that cannot be shaken (Hebrews 12.28). In particular, for the last 14 months, the world has seen an unprecedented financial shaking that started in the US and has rattled the entire financial system of the world.

As I see Scripture, this system is part of mystery Babylon, the great city that will fall in one day and in one hour (Revelation 18). [See issues #02-0884—02-0886; 02-0872; 02-0890; 02-0875—02-0877; and article #09 May 2008]. The attack on the twin towers of the World Trade Center, a symbol of the world's financial/economic system, was a harbinger of a greater judgment to come upon mystery Babylon.

In the series *A Great Storm On The Sea* (#02-0891—02-0894), I wrote that leading up to September of this year, I had been having the same sensing I had in the months prior to 9/11, seven years ago, that something climatic could happen. I even believed that it could be in September. Many have now described the great financial shaking that occurred in September as a *great storm*, even a financial tsunami and a *tumult*.

As I continue to share what is on my heart, I must state that I am no economist. What I know, I read or hear from the news, like most people do. But as I see and hear, I begin to think about the matter, search Scripture, and inquire of the Lord for discernment.

Anyone who reads the US headlines these days knows that there are two major issues facing the American people: the presidential election and the roller coaster ride of the US Stock Market and, at times, the global markets. One day, the Market soars 400 points based on some hope that something good will happen. The next day the same market falls 400 points on some fear that something bad will happen. Most recently, the market soared over 800 points in two days based on the Federal government stating they were in discussions about a bailout.

There is a spirit behind this emotional roller coaster, and, let me assure you, it is not the spirit of God.

Due to greed, the politics of power and influence, and plain fear, the financial (banks) sector of the market went into the tank and dragged down all stocks, which also rippled across the global markets. What we have seen of late has been called a great storm, a meltdown, and the biggest financial crisis since the Great Depression. It became so critical that money to lend at interest (usury) was drying up. So what did the government do? It bailed out one failing bank investment company (Bear Stearns), then let the next investment firm go into bankruptcy (Lehman Brothers), and then bailed out the next one (AIG), which happens to be an insurance company, by essentially taking ownership. When this did not work and the market continued to fall, the government decided that it had to bail out the entire system or face dire consequences. Some have stated that if the government (Congress) does not do something immediately, the entire system may totally collapse. So a bailout plan has been devised that could top \$700 billion, and this comes on top of a previous bailout of Fannie Mae and Freddie

Mac, to the tune of \$200 billion. The final price tag could top \$1.3 trillion. To manage the crisis, the government, in turn, must raise the ceiling of the national debt to \$11.3 trillion. Don't get confused; we just went from billions to trillions, a number that few people can comprehend. Add to this the \$400 billion annual bill to pay the interest on the current national debt and the \$2 billion a day paid to foreigners due to large trade imbalances and the United States of America is mortgaged to the hilt. And we haven't heard from the auto makers who have been raising the specter of bailouts due to poor sales resulting from high oil prices. This is INSANITY! No, it is more than this; it is drunkenness.

“For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed acts of immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality.” (Revelation 18.3 NASB)

Some Christians believe that the economy will stabilize and the US will get stronger; therefore, now is the time to invest. I would not be so sure about this, especially if you accept the thought that the system that we are yoked to is part of mystery Babylon. It must fall one day; the question is when. It is a given by most experts on the matter that this system is on the edge of collapse if nothing is done by the Federal government. But will they be able to stop its fall? If it is God's time for it to fall, it will, and no matter how much money the government puts into it, it will not stop its fall. If it does not fall at this point, then we must acknowledge that it is not God's appointed time and that His mercy will keep it afloat for the time being. But be assured that the day will come. In one hour! As I have stated elsewhere, this crisis could ebb and flow for the next two years or so before the hammer is finally taken to it to crush it into dust. This is a good thing, for this means that the Stone Kingdom is crushing the kingdom of this world that will result in the manifestation of the sons of God and the coming of our Lord, God's King.

There are two points that I must make. *First*, why would the Lord hold back His final judgment on this system? I doubt that He is waiting to see if it will change and become a moral system. A better question is why did He allow the world to be yoked to such a system in the first place? Could it be that the church of God has some explaining to do? Where has the church been as this diabolical system has extended its tentacles throughout the world? Actually, the church has participated with mystery Babylon to get rich and most have been blinded to this fact. After all, the Lord Jesus warns the church of Laodicea that says: **“I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing”** (Revelation 3.17). What is the Lord's exhortation to His church? **“Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and REPENT”** (Revelation 3.19). **REPENT!** Change your mind about the whole matter of wealth. We are living in a system that is against the law of God that one is not to charge interest on money lent to your countrymen (Deuteronomy 23.19), and few realize it. For too long, the church of God has either thrown out God's divine laws as obsolete or has selectively chosen, and sometimes distorted, the ones that most benefit their organization (e.g., tithing). People of God, it is time to repent for rejecting God's commands and for living by the spirit of the world. See issue #02-0888, August 6, 2008, and article #12, August 2008.

Second, as I was watching the news and meditating on what I was seeing and hearing, these words came ringing into my mind: **“The beast is hungry.”** On many occasions, I have thought that the whole financial system that runs not only the US economy but the entire world economy, and especially the US Stock Market, is a beast; a beast with an insatiable appetite and with a mind of its own that often acts irrationally, at least outwardly. Anyone who thinks that the financial beast of the 21st century can be satisfied and that a colossal bailout will satisfy its hunger has checked his brain at the door. Today, it is very hungry, it needs to be fed, and the government has no other answer than to satisfy it, at least for now. It is a devouring beast that will continue to demand more and more until there is only one solution.

‘Woe, woe, the great city, she who was clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls; for in one hour such great wealth has been laid waste!’ (Revelation 18.16-17a NASB)