

# 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)

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## ***NO ONE BUYS THEIR GOLD ANYMORE***

In issue #02-08120 (September 24, 2008), I stated that the beast is hungry, which refers to the financial system that is currently in crisis and which I believe will collapse on the day and in the hour that God has appointed. I don't believe there is anything anyone can do to stop its fall; it will come at the appointed time, for it must come in order for the kingdom of Christ to take root in the earth. As I have stated many times, this is a good thing. The leaders of the nations of the world have not acknowledged that Jesus Christ is the rightful heir of this earth and the true King of the nations. When man's ways prove to be nothing but foolishness and the leaders of the nations have no answers to the problems that their nations face, then the world will be ripe to hear what the Lord has to say through His ambassadors, the conquerors counted worthy to reign with Him. The kingdom of our Lord will rise from the ashes of man's failed attempt to have dominion over the earth apart from having God's spirit within them.

Given this, it is strange that some (perhaps, many) Christians are wondering what they must do to prepare for possibly difficult times that we might face prior to the coming of the kingdom of the heavens. Some are buying gold, others are stockpiling food, and others are preparing to protect against radiation poisoning. Consider what we are told about the end of mystery Babylon.

**“And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn over her, because no one buys their cargoes any more—cargoes of gold and silver and precious stones and pearls and fine linen and purple and silk and scarlet, and every kind of citron wood and every article of ivory and every article made from very costly wood and bronze and iron and marble, and cinnamon and spice and incense and perfume and frankincense and wine and olive oil and fine flour and wheat and cattle and sheep, and cargoes of horses and chariots and slaves and human lives.”** (Revelation 18.11-13 NASB)

The list of items traded is obviously representative of all the types of goods traded throughout the earth, including the trafficking of humans; we know that slavery has not been eradicated from the earth, even in our present day. For those who seek to protect themselves by buying gold, notice that no one will be buying gold when Babylon falls. Consequently, even in that day, gold will have no value. Actually, I find it rather strange for a Christian to buy gold on the commodity market. You might own it, but generally you do not take actual possession of it. It might be a good vehicle to preserve wealth, but how will it put bread on the table unless you have it in hand to purchase the bread?

There is a much more important type of preparation that will determine our place in the coming eons. We need a different type of preparation if we expect to reign with Christ; we need to be spiritually prepared for the day of Christ. The one thing that we, as the church of God, can do in this day is to repent of our ignorance of God's word and the truth of His word; in particular, our ignorance of His laws that are to be written on our hearts under the new covenant. We need to be repenting of our great lack and seeking the Lord to write His laws on our heart, especially the law of love.

**I heard another voice from heaven, saying, “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 NASB)

We are yoked to this Babylonian system, which is metaphorically described as a woman, because God has yoked us to it as a result of our sin. He is calling us out of this system, but we cannot come out unless He breaks the yoke off our necks. We cannot do it, but He can and He will if we repent. I believe He is leading a company of people to do just that in the midst of blindness on the part of many Christians and their leaders. Our Lord wants His people out of this bondage, and He will lead us out when it falls (if we are alive and remain); but we must be prepared in this day.

Now, the word *beast* is often used in reference to kingdoms that rule the earth. We find that Daniel prophetically referred to four beast kingdoms (Daniel 7.3, 7, 12, 17), and in *The Unveiling of Jesus Christ*, the word *beast* is used 37 times. In reference to Babylon the great, John saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast.

**And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns. The woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her immorality, and on her forehead a name was written, a mystery, "BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH." And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. When I saw her, I wondered greatly.** (Revelation 17.3-6 NASB)

Babylon stands in stark contrast to the holy city of God, New Jerusalem, which is the wife of the Lamb. Babylon is a counterfeit, immoral bride. But notice her connection to a beast. I realize there are many views on the nature of the beasts, as well as the harlot and the ten horns seen in *The Revelation*, but it is not my purpose to try to sort them all out. What I believe is more significant is that the woman sitting on the beast represents Babylon that seduces the nations of the earth into drinking of its abominations, even to the point of them killing the witnesses of Jesus. The angel informed John: **"The waters which you saw where the harlot sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues"** (Revelation 17.15 NASB). The harlot is a seducer of the masses, and it seduces through the love of wealth, which, in turn, leads to all sorts of abominations.

Now, I ask the question: How will Babylon fall? Interestingly, God will put in the heart of some of the nations of the earth to turn on the harlot and give their power to a beast. They will have a common purpose in order to fulfill God's plan to break the yoke.

**"And the ten horns which you saw, and the beast, these will hate the harlot and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire. For God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose, and by giving their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God will be fulfilled. The woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth."** (Revelation 17.16-18 NASB)

It seems to me that, in some measure, the financial/economic system of the United States, which also influences so much of the world economy, is not only within mystery Babylon but is representative of mystery Babylon, and it is through the downfall of the US system that all of Babylon falls. Perhaps, a day will come when the beast turns on the US system and brings it down. Is this too far fetched? Many are concerned that if the US does not solve its financial crisis, it will lead the whole world into recession, or worse. The problem is that the US is mortgaged heavily to foreigners; that is, it is in debt to other nations. It has been stated by others that these nations could bring down the US if they wanted to, but they won't for fear it would bring them down as well.

But, what if God puts it in the heart of these nations to pull the plug, so to speak, on this debt? They call in their loans. The US could default and not pay the loans, or it could print the money to pay them off, which would send inflation soaring to unimaginable heights. However, either option would bring havoc to the world economy, leading to the end of our present wicked eon and the coming of our beloved Lord and King. **"For in one hour your judgment has come"** (Revelation 18.10 NASB). After all, the Lord raised up the Babylonians to judge Israel. It is time to repent and to be prepared to come out of mystery Babylon. Let us not delay!