

# 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)

#02-08124

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## ***THE HEART IS MORE DECEITFUL THAN ALL ELSE***

(5) Thus says the LORD, “Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind and makes flesh his strength, and whose heart turns away from the LORD. (6) “For he will be like a bush in the desert and will not see when prosperity comes, but will live in stony wastes in the wilderness, a land of salt without inhabitant. (7) “Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD and whose trust is the LORD. (8) “For he will be like a tree planted by the water, that extends its roots by a stream and will not fear when the heat comes; but its leaves will be green, and it will not be anxious in a year of drought nor cease to yield fruit. (9) “The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it? (10) “I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give to each man according to his ways, according to the results of his deeds. (11) “As a partridge that hatches eggs which it has not laid, so is he who makes a fortune, but unjustly; in the midst of his days it will forsake him, and in the end he will be a fool.” (12) A glorious throne on high from the beginning is the place of our sanctuary. (Jeremiah 17.5-12 NASB)

Jeremiah the prophet was raised up by the Lord to speak to Judah and Jerusalem. His prophecies began in the thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah, king of Judah, and continued for some forty years until after the destruction of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar. However, his prophecies and calls for repentance were not restricted to Judah but also extended to Israel and the nations. It was a time of judgment for the sin of the nation.

As shared previously (issue #02-08123), there is a curse on the one who makes flesh his strength and turns away from the Lord. All who live in the US and call upon the Lord should be concerned for our national leaders. Pray that their hearts will turn to the Lord, who is the only answer for the challenges that mankind faces in these dark days. Pray for national repentance. Pray for the kingdom of the Lord and of His Christ to come to this earth. Pray for the coming of the King!

The good news is that there is blessing for all who trust in the Lord and whose trust is the Lord. I personally was taught this lesson 14 years ago, and, today, I find that I need to be reminded of this lesson once again. The number 14 is the number of deliverance and salvation. I know I need deliverance from a system that is a devouring beast by which the world has become drunk through its sensuality and immorality. It is called mystery Babylon. Recently, I felt led to make a very difficult decision that will alter the way my wife and I live, but it was essential that we took this step of faith. After all, the cry that goes out as Babylon falls is: **Come out of her, My people** (Revelation 18.4).

Based on what the Lord has been revealing to my heart, I believe that not only is the financial system under judgment (see issues #02-08120—122), but we will soon see judgment upon the political system of the United States that has become morally bankrupt and corrupt. It is a dirty system that is driving this once great country into the ground. I have no indication of how the political system will be judged, but it will be. We may be in for a drought on many fronts. However, all of this is a good thing if it turns the hearts of people back to the Lord to see that there is only One in whom we are to trust, the Lord who is our trust. It is time to lift up the only One who can set things right and bring true righteousness, justice, and peace to the nations of this earth.

It must be stated loud and clear that the heart of the political system of the US is desperately sick. All one has to do is listen to what is coming out of Washington. Don't take me wrong. I am not judging any one politician's heart; only the Lord knows the individual heart. I am speaking of the system as a whole, and its foundation. People, don't put your trust in it, for it will forsake you and leave you as a fool. Its foundation is not of Christ. I believe a day will come when the politicians will be so stunned that they will have no wisdom to fix major issues; all they will have is empty words backed by fear. As believers, we have the answer, and we need to be prepared to deliver it.

Now, speaking through Jeremiah, the Lord declared that the heart is more deceitful than all else. The Lord even asked the question: **Who can understand the heart?** Well, there is One who can, and He is the One who knows what lies in the heart of man and who searches it. Simply, the Lord searches the heart and tests the mind. Some 400 years earlier, when Israel demanded a king, they were given Saul, who by appearance was attractive, but unfortunately his heart was not right. The people looked at outward appearance and failed to see that he was a flawed leader. [I hope you see the lesson in this for us today.] The Lord spoke to Samuel the prophet: **"Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart"** (1 Samuel 16.7 NASB).

What does the Lord see when He looks upon hearts that are deceitful? He sees hearts that are desperately sick! Only the Lord knows the heart. Apart from the spirit of God revealing our own condition, we do not even know how sick we might be in the eyes of the Lord. But there is an answer, and that is the circumcised heart.

Moses exhorted Israel: **"So circumcise your heart, and stiffen your neck no longer"** (Deuteronomy 10.16 NASB). Through Jeremiah, the Lord exhorted Judah and Jerusalem: **"Circumcise yourselves to the LORD and remove the foreskins of your heart, men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, or else My wrath will go forth like fire and burn with none to quench it, because of the evil of your deeds"** (Jeremiah 4.4 NASB).

The circumcised heart is one that is sensitive to the Lord, one that hears the Lord and whose trust is the Lord. Again, through Moses, the Lord promised that a day would come in which He would circumcise hearts: **"Moreover the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live"** (Deuteronomy 30.6 NASB). To live is to have a circumcised heart. But Paul is the one who tells us how God circumcises hearts. It is by His spirit: **But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God** (Romans 2.29 NASB).

Returning to Jeremiah, we are informed that the reason for the Lord searching the heart and testing the mind is to give to each according to his ways, according to the results of his deeds. The Lord will judge all who have acted in unrighteousness, especially those who have made fortunes unjustly. The Lord will judge, but He will do it for the purpose of correction and restoration, not for eternal destruction. **"As a partridge that hatches eggs which it has not laid, so is he who makes a fortune, but unjustly; in the midst of his days it will forsake him, and in the end he will be a fool."** Those who brought this great crisis on the US, and perhaps the world, will be dealt with by the Lord. The politicians who helped to bring it about and who continue to play power broker to protect their interests will be dealt with by the Lord. For all who have ears to hear and eyes that have been opened to the truth of God and not been blinded by the spirit of the world, there is only one way through these dark days, even if the coming days seem to get better and people are saying we have weathered the storm. Don't be fooled; be one who trusts in the Lord and whose trust is the Lord.

In closing, Jeremiah has given a beautiful word of hope for those whose trust is the Lord: **A glorious throne on high from the beginning is the place of our sanctuary.** Think about it!