

# 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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## ***A GREAT STORM AND TUMULT—THE LORD'S DOING***

We are living in times of great uncertainty and turmoil. It is a great storm and tumult, and it is the Lord's doing. This I have been testifying to since the beginning of the year, based on what I trust the Lord has revealed to me. I will be so bold as to state that the end of our present world system and this wicked eon is not too far off, for the kingdom of the heavens is coming to this earth to establish righteousness, justice, and peace. In that glorious day, the inhabitants of the world will begin to learn righteousness. We may have some rough roads in the days ahead but do not despair; glory is on the horizon. This is a good thing!

Naturally, many people are fearful of what lies ahead as they see their paper wealth evaporate. I too have experienced it and have had many days in which I have cried out to the Lord asking what to do. But I always come back to this one thought: What we all are going through is a good thing because we are getting closer and closer to the coming of our Lord and His kingdom. The prayer on my heart is: Come, Lord Jesus! Thy Kingdom come! Don't take me wrong; this is not escapism; it is a reality that this world of unrighteousness cannot and will not satisfy the heart that is in love with Jesus. As creation groans awaiting the manifestation of the sons of God, so we also groan, longing to be revealed as the sons of God (see Romans 8.18-25). We need glorified, celestial bodies in the image of Christ. The limitations of mortal bodies must be thrown off if we are to be ambassadors for Christ as He establishes His kingdom over the nations of this earth.

I am amazed to hear some pastors talk as if what is happening in the world today is not significant. I even heard one pastor declare that God is not "about" the economy, presumably the world economy that is headed south, so to speak. This brother went on to encourage the crowd to place a demand on the money they were being asked to place in the offering bucket so that it would yield an increase. A common pray was offered that increase would come through some of the so-called wealth-building securities employed in the financial world that is collapsing. Excuse me, but are these men living in some sort of time warp? We must discern the times and see what God is doing and His purpose in doing it.

To add to this; last evening I was watching a Christian program on television. Five pastors were having some sort of "couch" discussion. I say couch because that is what they appeared to be sitting on. One issue that came up was their ministries and getting in touch with what God wants them to do. Oh, they talked about getting people saved and meeting people where they are, especially meeting their needs. Such a heart is good and right. However, based on what I heard and did not hear, there seemed to be a great disconnect in what they were discussing, based on the day in which we live. It was like listening to politicians. There was no indication that any of these men had any idea that God has a grand purpose that is being worked out through, by, and for His Son. The focus was on *their* ministry and linking up with what God supposedly wants them to do in *their* ministry. I trust that you see the difference as well as the danger.

In both cases sighted, I heard no mention whatsoever of seeking God to understand what is going on in our day and to know God's heart and how God's people are to respond. I don't think that any of these men realize that what is transpiring is the Lord's doing as He works out His plan to accomplish His purpose. If you do not know what God's purpose and plan is, then I encourage you to read my book *The Purpose and Plan of the Eons*, as well as the series of *The Upward Call* titled *That God May*

*Be All In All.* We must have what I call the proper framework by which to understand God's word and what He has been doing down through the eons and, especially, what He is doing in our present day as we near the Tabernacles Age.

In this regard, I have a few general points that I want to stress, and then, in a subsequent issue, I will deal with some specific points that might help to put into perspective the so-called financial meltdown that is occurring in our day.

First, let us not forget that **God is Sovereign**. The word *sovereign* means "above or superior to all others, and supreme in power, rank, and authority." Simply, there is no one beyond God.

**"And there is no other God besides Me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none except Me."** (Isaiah 45.21 NASB)

What is occurring is not some happenstance as if it were outside the will of God. I realize that many people see two aspects to the will of God. They see God's perfect will and His permissive will. The perfect will is what God wants, and the permissive will is what He allows. Of course, this gets more confused when one adds in the whole flawed concept of free will (see my article #5, January 2008, *Being Ignorant, In Unbelief, Yet The Grace*). I see it in an entirely different way. As the Creator, God alone is responsible for His creation. He is responsible for its success or failure. His will alone, through His love, will prevail over His creation to bring about His purpose.

Second, **He rules in the kingdom of men**. Through Daniel the prophet, the Lord told Nebuchadnezzar that **the Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will** (Daniel 4.32 ASV). After seven periods of distress, Nebuchadnezzar blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him. He declared: **And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?** (Daniel 4.35 ASV). Through Daniel, we are also told that **the heavens do rule** (Daniel 4.26). I realize that some might respond that we should not overlook the devil and his dominion that is in battle against the Lord's people. Unfortunately, it seems that some people treat the devil as if it were some independent agent working outside the will of God, which leads to the next point.

Third, **the Lord is the Creator of evil**, as revealed through Isaiah the prophet.

**I am Yahweh, and there is none else: Former of light and Creator of darkness, Maker of good and Creator of evil. I Yahweh doeth all these.** (Isaiah 45.6-7 CV/REB)

All things have been created by Yahweh, none excepted. He created evil, and He created the devil as the evil one. It is all part of God's plan to bring about His purpose.

Finally, **God works through times and epochs fixed by His authority** (Acts 1.7). History is not a series of events randomly strung together by years, months, and days. Quite the contrary; God's plan is worked out in time, not only through the eons but through specific periods of time that are repeated throughout history in cycles, especially ones based on the number *seven*, which is the number of divine perfection. I was caught by a statement made by one of the "couch" pastors. He made a point about numbers, but he prefaced his comment with something like "I know some people take numbers too far," as if to imply that those that try to see God's plan being worked out through numbers go too far. I beg to differ; I believe that we have not made enough attempts to understand the times fixed by His authority. Thank God for those who do try to understand! When all is said and done, I believe that we will see that everything will have been worked out with an impeccable precision that includes every single day set in motion by the Creator of all.