

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)

#02-08127

OCTOBER 8, 2008

A GREAT STORM —A TIME FIXED BY HIS AUTHORITY

In issue #02-08126, I made four simple but essential points. If we are to begin to understand what is happening in our day, we need to be clear that **God is Sovereign; He rules in the kingdom of men; He is the Creator of evil; and He works through times and epochs fixed by His authority.**

It is this last point that I want to use as a starting point for the subject of this issue. God's purpose is being worked out through the eons or ages, which are indefinite or long periods of time that have a beginning and an end and which are made through His Son (Hebrews 1.2). We are presently living in what Paul called this present wicked eon or age (Galatians 1.4). However, within the eons, God also works according to definite periods of time that are often repeated throughout history, especially periods based on multiples of seven. Thus, we see cycles of 21 years, 70 years, 210 years, 490 years, and ones as large as 2,520 years, to name a few. Further, in Scripture numbers have meaning; therefore, periods of time based on these numbers often have spiritual meanings attached to them.

I believe that if we examine some of the underlying causes of the current great storm and tumult that as of today appears to be a global financial meltdown, we will discover that there are at least three periods of time that have come into focus during 2008, especially during the month of September. By themselves, they might not prove the point, but added to what I trust I have heard from the Lord, it is more than likely that we are witnessing the collapse of the Babylonian system that we have been yoked to for nearly 100 years. Again, let me remind you that this is a good thing.

As I have researched this matter, I have discovered that some people have been warning for years about the danger of the Federal Reserve System (the Fed) which runs the financial, capitalist system of the US economy. I would guess that most Americans think the Federal Reserve is part of the US government, but, in fact, it is not. It is considered to be an independent central bank that essentially loans the US government money at interest. At its core are 12 privately-owned Federal banks. The US Constitution gives Congress the authority to coin money and set its value, but on December 23, 1913, this all changed when President Woodrow Wilson signed the **Federal Reserve Act of 1913** with enactment of the **Federal Reserve System** in 1914. Supposedly, it was put into play to stabilize the banking industry. Some people believe that there were sinister motives of greed behind it and offer their conspiracy theories. I do not adhere to conspiracies but recognize that there are powers of darkness that influence and persuade men to do certain things. But again, this is all done under the sovereignty of God.

Essentially, Congress delegated its authority over money to the Fed, and as long the Fed acts within the framework as set by Congress, the Fed, in theory, will continue. Consequently, some describe the Fed as an independent agency within the government. Others would argue that it is no such thing and, in fact, operates the entire financial system, absent the Congress. One thing we can be sure of is that the **Federal Reserve System** and Congress have led this country into an abyss of debt that is beyond anyone's imagination. They are issuing money today that has nothing to back up its supposed value. It seems that many who study this matter quote one of our founding fathers, Thomas Jefferson, who said: **"I place economy among the first and most important virtues, and public debt as the greatest dangers. To preserve our independence, we must not let our rulers load us with perpetual debt."** Well, so much for following the sound advice of one of our founders. Not only are we carrying an unbelievable mountain of debt, but we are also indebted to many foreign nations.

In a previous issue (#02-08121, September 25, 2008), I referred to the Lord's command to Israel to not lend money with interest to its fellow countrymen (Deuteronomy 23.19-20). It is called usury! Do you think that mankind has a better way than God does? If we had only listened to the Lord, we would not be in the mess we are in today. We need to repent for how far off the mark we are in respect to God's divine law. This is a direct result of the church of God ignoring God's word and instead picking and choosing what it wants to follow and not follow. Some of the very ones who tell their congregation that they will be cursed if they do not tithe to their ministry are the same ones who tell their people to put their tithe on credit cards, which, by the way, charge interest. REPENT! Under the New Covenant, we are to have God's laws written in our minds and on our hearts, and the foundation of God's law is love, which has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit (Romans 5.5). Love demands that we love our fellow countrymen, and love does not charge interest because it puts our fellow countrymen under bondage; it is a form of slavery.

It is becoming more apparent to me that the Lord Himself has placed us under this bondage as a judgment for our sin of saying that God's divine law has been made obsolete by the grace of God. Need I remind you that Christ is the fulfillment of the law and that we are in Him, and He is in us? I have written on this before, so I will not take up space going over this ground again.

Here is my point: starting early in the last century, the Lord began to yoke the US, along with the rest of the world, to Mystery Babylon. It is a mystery because no one saw it coming and no one realized we were being yoked to it until very recently, as the Lord opened the blind eyes of a few. We are in Babylonian captivity as slaves to debt, and this debt has led to greater taxation, which enslaves us all the more. Interestingly, some believe that the modern banking system of usury actually started while Judah was under Babylonian captivity during which time a man named Jacob Egibi began loaning out money with interest. Some report that he charged 20% interest. Also, according to one brother who has done much research on the matter, the enactment of the Federal Reserve System in 1914 was 2,520 years after Jerusalem fell to Babylonian captivity. The number 2,520 is a multiple of 7 (360 days) and is twice the number 1,260, as recorded in Revelation 11.3 and 12.6.

As I researched this matter on my own, I discovered a few things regarding periods of time that I believe might give further indication of the Lord's hand in the matter and possibly where we are on His timeline. Apparently, the idea for a central banking system first began in 1910 but did not take shape until the **Federal Reserve Act of 1913**. Twenty-five years later, in 1938, the US system was bankrupt and a new seed of disaster was planted. It was called **Fannie Mae**, which was created on February 10, 1938 "to ensure a reliable supply of mortgage credit throughout the country." Seventy years later, on September 7, 2008, Fannie Mae was taken over by the government and put into conservatorship because it was leading the US financial system to the brink of total collapse due to taking on too many bad loans that were packaged or bundled into wealth-building securities. Need I remind you that Daniel and his people were in Babylonian captivity for 70 years? However, the seed for this collapse was actually planted 40 years ago, on September 1, 1968, when Fannie Mae was authorized to bundle mortgages and sell them as securities called **Mortgage-Backed Securities** (MBS), and then later, these were bundled into yet other types of securities. Need I remind you that Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years, a number that refers to trial and testing? *Forty* is also a number of probation by prosperity. Under the judges, when Israel did right in the sight of God, He raised up good judges and the land had rest for 40 years (Judges 3.11; 5.31; 8.28). Unfortunately, prosperity and rest did not lead them to continue doing good; they began to do evil. Then, to cap it off, 38 years ago, **Freddie Mac** was created to do the same thing as Fannie Mae is chartered to do. From the first time Israel reached the land of promise under Moses until Joshua finally took them into the land was 38 years, a number that refers to slavery. Do you see the connection of the numbers 70, 40, and 38 to the day in which we live? All these numbers come to a point in the year 2008. During the last 70 years, especially the last 40 years, wealth has grown tremendously in the US and the world. This is the Lord's doing to test us by prosperity while under Babylonian rule. But did we, especially the church of God, learn anything? Did it turn the heart of the church to love the Lord more than wealth? Hardly! The church of Laodicea declares: "**I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing.**" We failed the test. We are blind! It is time to heed the Lord: "**Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; be zealous, therefore, and repent**" (see Revelation 3.15-22). The kingdom is coming!