

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)

#02-08128

OCTOBER 11, 2008

LORD, HAVE MERCY ON US!

Issue #02-08127, October 8, 2008, concluded with some things that I discovered while researching the current financial meltdown, as so many call it, or a great storm, a tumult, as the Lord called it as He spoke to my heart during the months leading up to September. Let me be clear about one thing before proceeding: I continue to believe that the US Stock Market, which seems to be like a weather barometer in determining the mood of people, will collapse. If this week is an indication, it may be sooner than later. However, it is possible that over the short haul, the situation could outwardly improve. Again, what the world is experiencing is like birth pains, the ebb and flow of the ocean, or the wild swings of a pendulum. Do not be surprised that if after the presidential election, depending on who gets elected, some will be stating that we are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel and better days are coming. Do not be fooled. I believe that a greater crisis is coming that will shake and shock the world. I do not know what it will be; but, if I am hearing the Lord correctly, it will come, and it will come at the time fixed by the Father's authority. To add to this, on March 11, 2008, I had a dream of the Titanic sinking; to date, I have not been given a specific interpretation of the dream, which also had two other components to it. When I receive more clarity, I will share it. However, one thing I do know is that the political system of the US will be judged, so perhaps the next major crisis will be in this realm.

The word of a greater crisis coming came to me on September 23, 2008. Over the last two years, some of the more significant things spoken to me by the Lord have occurred on the 23rd of various months. Interestingly, the number 23 refers to death. Death can be more than physical death, especially as all things that can be shaken are shaken. When things are shaken, they go into a type of death as they cease to be.

Now, this word about a crisis was followed up ten days later on October 2, 2008. During the night, as I slept, in my spirit, I sang part of a song over and over again. The strange part is that the words were in Irish, and I did not know what the words meant. I knew the tune of the song, for it is a song that I have heard before and enjoy listening to. I also knew it might be a Christian song because one of the words in the line that I kept singing sounded like the word *Christian*. In fact, phonetically, I sang the words *Christian trokara*. But again, let me stress that I did not know the meaning or the actual spelling of the words. When I woke in the morning, I told my wife of my experience because I do not often sing in my sleep, but based on past experience, when I do, it is the spirit of God at work. To find the words of the song, I had to search (google) the Internet. It didn't take very long to locate it, and when I did, I started to cry. In Irish, the words are **A Chríost, déan trócaire**, which translated mean "**Christ, have mercy.**" Throughout the night, I was singing for the Lord to have mercy.

But there is more. The song is titled *Heartland* by Phil Coulter and is sung by Celtic Thunder (Decca Records, 2008), and it speaks of a raging storm and the Lord bringing us safely to shore. "When the storm is raging and thunder rolls, deliver us from the ocean, save our souls. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Thank you, Lord, You have brought us safe to shore, be our strength and protection ever more."

To recap, ten days after hearing of a great crisis coming, I was singing in Irish throughout the night for the Lord to have mercy, based on a song that is about a raging storm on the sea (ocean). I do not think this was a coincidence. By the way, the number 10 signifies the perfection of divine order. E.W. Bullinger wrote: "Completeness of order, marking the entire round of anything, is, therefore, the ever-present signification of the number *ten*. It implies that nothing is wanting; that the number and order are perfect;

that the whole cycle is complete” (*Number in Scripture*, E.W. Bullinger, Kregel Publications, 1967). Perhaps, this next crisis will complete the last cycle of this age as the kingdom of Christ comes to this earth. May it be so! But until then, the prayer on my heart is **Lord, have mercy on us.**

This should remind us of the story of Jesus giving sight to the two blind men sitting by the road.

As they were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed Him. And two blind men sitting by the road, hearing that Jesus was passing by, cried out, “Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!” The crowd sternly told them to be quiet, but they cried out all the more, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!” And Jesus stopped and called them, and said, “What do you want Me to do for you?” They said to Him, “Lord, we want our eyes to be opened.” Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes; and immediately they regained their sight and followed Him. (Matthew 20.29-34 NASB)

Do not let the fact that Jesus left Jericho pass you by. If you recall, when Joshua took the second generation of Israelites into the land of promise, he conquered Jericho by the famous seven-day walk around the fortified city. It fell on the seventh day as they walked around it for the seventh time. Interestingly, my wife and I were led to do a Jericho walk July 10-16, 2007 just as the financial crisis began to surface. We felt led to walk and declare the downfall of Babylon. We walked around a sign with the name **Colony** on it. The US was celebrating the 400-year anniversary of its founding, and we felt led to pray for the release of the nation from Babylonian captivity. If we had only known!

So, it is no coincidence that Jesus left Jericho and then healed the blind men. Mystery Babylon must fall so that the eyes of God’s people will be opened. But for this to take place, the Lord’s people must see their blindness to the truth of their condition and the times in which they live. The Lord’s people must be brought to the place of seeing their poverty before the Lord and cry out for mercy. “Lord, have mercy on us! We are blind. We need spiritual sight. We need to see You! We repent for having our eyes set on the things of this world, for being more in love with the world system that makes us rich than with You. Forgive us. Open our eyes to see.”

I must confess that for a time I thought that the Lord’s exhortation to the church of Laodicea was no longer valid because we were beyond that point, but I now see that I was wrong. Our Lord’s exhortation was written for the very day in which we live, especially when we consider the prosperity and wealth-building emphasis that has permeated much of the American church and is exported to other nations. I believe that much of the meltdown in our day is the result of the Lord’s people falling in love with wealth and leaving their first love. So, Jesus declares to His people today:

‘I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. Because you say, “I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing,” and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me. He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’ (Revelation 3.15-22 NASB)

Meditate on these words until they sink deep within your heart, and then pray for the Lord to have mercy on His people, the nations, and the leaders of the nations. Let us not forget that **mercy triumphs over judgment** (James 2.13). We need our eyes opened. The kingdom of Christ is set before us, and we need to see the One who is coming to rule in righteousness. We need to hear His voice. We need to conquer in this day so that we will be found worthy to sit upon His throne in His day. Let us hear what the spirit of God is saying. Let us buy His gold (divine character of love), His garments (righteousness), and His eye salve (spiritual sight) while we still have today. Though the storms rage, He will bring us safely to shore. Our Joshua is coming to deliver us! Be encouraged!